

# ASTRONOMICAL LIGHT ON VEDIC CULTURE

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## FOREWORD

We have pleasure in placing in the hands of learned readers this book which is likely to prove the first of its kind in the market.

Prof. Vaidya, its author, has to his credit a rare combination of qualifications. He is an M. A. in Maths. and a Graduate of Sanskrit. He knows Astronomy—Oriental and Western, Theoretical and Practical, both. His experience as the Superintendent of Observatory over a decade, has helped him in finding out the hitherto lost system of Astronomy in Vedic Age. He has attempted to correlate the three main branches of Indology viz : Vedic Language, Astronomy and Sacrificial System, which is one of the salient features of the book.

He has also attempted to trace the changes in Astronomical and Sacrificial Systems in the Vedic age extending from the years 12000 B. C. to 3000 B. C. He has also attempted to show how Sanskrit words have lost their Vedic meanings during bygone Ages, and also how Christianity, Islam and Parsee religion can be found to have been influenced by the Vedic Culture.

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Dated 21st March 1965

## ERRATA

Page 16 Last three lines in the footnote, viz. "प्रतीचीन संगवाद्" are to be regarded as a footnote on "दोइशी, उग्र्य, अतिग्रन्, etc" occuring in line 20 on page 18

Page 18 : The footnote 22 viz : "पूर्वाण्डो वे देवानां - - - etc" refers to the words "These five parts" in the top line on page 19

Page 19 . The number 23 printed on "These five parts" is to be read as 22"

Page 22 . Delete the line "For complete footnote see" under footnote No 24

Page 32 Delete the first two lines at the top viz : "we quote below etc."

Page 33 Delete the footnote "cf संवत्सरस्य समवा etc."

Page 33 see Trisuparna etc refers to " 'चातुर्मास्य यज्ञा ' " on page 32

Page 33 Delete the first two lines at the top, viz "see figure V "

## PREFACE

The Vedic religion and culture is supposed to consist mainly of the three branches, viz Vedic literature, Sacrificial system and Astronomy. While considering the almanac controversy (पञ्चाङ्गवाद) in all its aspects, it has come to our notice that its indecision was mainly been due to lack of coordinated knowledge of the early Vedic tradition about the three branches on the part of the participants in the controversy. The study of Vedic passages which are put forth as their supports by various scholars interested in the almanac controversy, has led us to the conclusion that the study of the three branches has continued for centuries quite independently, without even suspecting that a correlation between them was considered an essential factor in the early Age. The following lines from the Vedangajyotish declare in unequivocal terms that the Sacrificial system was evolved and various adjustments made to it to suit the required system of time units and the Vedic passages were composed for being recited at the time of performing sacrifices —

वेदा हि यज्ञार्थमभिप्रवृत्ता कालानुपूर्व्या सिद्धिता यज्ञे ।  
तस्मादिदं कालविधानशास्त्रं यो ज्योतिष वेदस्य वेद यज्ञान् ॥

It was, therefore, very necessary for a student of Vedic Sacrificial system to understand the Astronomical system of time units.

A study of Mahābhārat, Brāhminic Works and of even of Purānas has shown that Sanskrit words like षड्, संवत्सर, कला, मयु, कल्प, पक्ष etc, have lost their original Vedic meaning during the Smṛiti Age.

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\* The following lines also prove that Astronomy was considered as the first subject of study :—

- (1) दसं विना मरुतस्तु कल्पतां मरुतो दसः ।  
तद्वत् वेदोऽप्यमरुतस्तु ज्योतिष इत्येव विदुः ॥
- (2) अग्निमन्त्रं षड्

It was, therefore, thought very essential to probe into the unknown dark of the pre-Vedic or Early Vedic Age and to try to see if some clues can be obtained just to enable us to throw some light on the subject. It is admitted on all hands that, of all methods of fixing the chronology of the Vedic period, the Astronomical method is the most reliable and verifiable one. We, therefore, decided to follow the following principles of research. The merit of our efforts has, of course, to be judged from the degree of impartiality of approach made and on its novelty.

## THE PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH

(1) The period of thousands of years from now to the distant past has to be divided into four Ages —

(a) The Vedic Age (वेदकाल), in which people described their actual experiences of life lived and Astronomical or Geographical scenes and conditions witnessed. During this period, those Venerable Sages who are known as ऋषयः, have to be assumed to have lived and actually seen whatever has been described in Vedic passages by Rishis during the Shruti Age.

(b) The Shruti Age (श्रुतिकाल) — During this age, all knowledge handed down by the Venerable Sages to their posterity traditionally by mouth was incorporated by them in the form of hymns and mantras. These 'Junior' Sages may have made some modifications also in certain cases.

(c) The Smṛiti Age (स्मृतिकाल) — Vedic Scholars living in this Age continued to enrich the existing stock of knowledge by making additions and alterations to it. Words like "इति श्रुतिः" suggest the composition of such mantras during this period. E. g. 'प्रसादात् कुर्वताम् कर्म संपूर्णं स्यात् इति श्रुतिः' suggests that this mantra has been composed in the Smṛiti Age.

(d) The Puranic Age (पुराणकाल) — This is notable for the compilation of dozens of Puranas. Passages containing the phrase इति स्मृतिः also point to this Age for their composition.

It is needless to say that the Vedic knowledge of 'actuality' (प्रत्यक्ष) must have passed through different modified forms

during these Ages, and these "particles of knowledge" can be arranged in the descending order of reliability. It has been decided to limit our enquiry up to the Smṛiti Age.

(2) In adopting the Astronomical stand, so far as our knowledge goes, we have assumed a principle which has not been adopted by any scholar in fixing up a date.

(a) "Because the Vedic Sages never knew the astronomical phenomenon of the 'precession of equinoxes', the fixation of a date on the basis of the occurrence of Vernal Equinox in any particular asterism would be a fallacy and a mistake."

(b) Because passages like the following clearly show that the commencement of a year, a sacrifice and a Prajapati always coincided with a star rising in the East, the rise of Star exactly in the East should be taken to be our guiding principle for finding any Nakshatra Age.— E. g. "कृत्तिरास्वमिमादधीत ॥ सर्व इ वै नक्षत्राणि ग्रथ्ये दिशश्च्यवन्ते ॥ कृत्तिरा न च्यवन्ते तस्मात् कृत्तिरास्वमिमादधीत ॥"

(c) By the term 'Nakshatra' has to be taken a star, a cluster of stars or a constellation and not a divisional nakshatra of modern conception. The lines, "कृत्तिराश्वमिमादधीत ॥ चित्रास्वमिमादधीत ॥", "आसन् मघासुनय", चित्रा शिरविशाले उरु" etc clearly show that these were names of stars and not of imaginary divisions.

(d) To remember that ऋषि and वसु of today's conception never existed in the Early Vedic Age. The terms कल, ऋतु and नक्षत्र necessarily denoted time units, while मनु was a Governor for social and religious affairs and not a time unit.

(3)(a) If a passage or a line or a word would be seen to admit of two or more meanings, we have to accept that which would explain some astronomical or sacrificial event.

(b) To assume that all astronomical units of time were determinable by some astronomical phenomenon or condition which had suggested to Early Vedic Rishis their creation.

- (c) To assume that all sacrificial systems came into existence because of various time units and were brought into use to measure them
- (d) To assume that Vedic passages should be expected to describe the astronomical scenes and conditions which were actually seen and also various aspects of sacrificial systems employed by the Sages.
- (4) All Sanskrit terms must have some meaning. The names of deities, planets and stars could not have come into existence arbitrarily without their association with their actual experience of life.
- (5) While attempting to interpret a Vedic passage, to set aside the views of commentators, and to test them on the touchstone of actuality, because, in accepting the interpretations of **भार्यकार**, there is a danger of being carried away by their pre-conceived notions, which may prove to be quite wrong

We believe that research is endless. It knows no finality. All theories are, therefore, tentative and provisional and likely to be modified in course of time. All scholars of Indology are, therefore, requested to subject our researches to closest possible scrutiny and thus help the sacred cause of Truth. They are also requested to see how far we have succeeded in establishing a correlation between the three branches of Vedic culture. All adverse criticism would be gratefully welcomed and duly considered, provided it is free from bias of any kind and is at the same time supported by sound argument.

Our grateful thanks are due to—

- (1) Late Shri G B Makoday, B. A., of Indore, an eminent scholar of Vedic literature, who urged us to undertake this kind of research work,
- (2) The following eminent scholars of Vedic literature for having suggested correct interpretations for some of the Vedic passages —
  - (1) Dr H R. Diwekar, M A., D Litt., Sahityacharya, Gwalior



- (ii) Shri R. V. Kumbhare, M. A., B. T., T. D., Retired Deputy-Director of Education, Jaipur
- (iii) Ahitagni D. V. Nene, Ayurvedacharya, Indore.
- (3) Shri P. V. Gadgil, Proprietor, Makarand Sahitya, of Bombay for having undertaken to publish our Researches, and for publishing this essay so soon.

Bombay,            }  
January, 1964 }

R. V. VAIDYA

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( Tithi ) as is used by us today —

त्रयोदश रात्री दीक्षित स्यात् त्रयोदश मासाः सवत्सर  
पञ्चदश रात्री दीक्षित स्यात् पञ्चदशवर्षमासस्य रात्रय

The following lines, for instance, from the well known hymn ( पुरुषसूक्त ) Purushasukta, which is chanted by us practically every day used to make me uneasy all these years and I used to ask myself the question, ' could there have lived sages on some part of the globe who used to perform sacrifices very different from those known to our Vedic Rishis ' ? — ' यत्पुरुषेण हविषा देवा यज्ञमतन्वत ॥ वसतोऽस्त्य आसीदाज्यं घ्रीष्मं इष्मं शरदहवि ॥ तेन देवाभ्यजन्त ॥ सप्तास्यासन् परिधयं त्रिं सप्त समिधं कृता ॥ देवा यत् यज्ञमतन्वानांश्चघ्नन् पुरुषं पशुम् ॥ यज्ञेन यज्ञमयजन्त देवा ॥ तानि धर्माणि प्रयमानि आसन् ॥ अतो देवा अबन्तु नो ॥ तद्विष्णो परमं पदम् सदा पश्यन्ति सूर्य दिवौ च चतुराततम् ॥ तद्विष्णो जायतासं समिन्धते विष्णोर्यत् परमं पदम् ॥

These lines have been composed by Vedic sages. They herein refer to some persons calling them as देवा ( Gods ) who had a different system of religion to follow, and those who did not require any living animal ( पशु ) to offer, but the—पुरुष—विष्णु—विश्व—i. e. Universe. They did not need any ( घृतम् ) ghee, or ( इष्म ) fuel or ( हवि ) oblation to be offered to fire, for them the Vasant ( घ्रीष्म ) Greeshma and the ( शरद् ) Sharad served the purpose. Those of them who could keep awake for nights together continuously could see the exalted position of God Vishnu.

The conditions and scenes described in the above stanza are not observable in any non polar region. We began to ask ourselves the question ' Could there be a place on the globe where these scenes are observable ? ' We were thusled to find out if a resident under the North Pole could see such scenes. We, therefore, started to find out what astronomical scenes and conditions would an observer in the North Polar region observe during a very long period of say, 1000 years.

## INTRODUCTION

The Vedic literature abounds in Mantras in which terms like युग, कल्प, सप्तसर, अह, मुहूर्त—etc. occur. We never believe that in the early Vedic age the term युग (Yuga) could have been a period of millions of years. The following verse from Mahabharat quotes the time units in vogue in the time of Sage Vyas.

कल्प काष्ठाय युज्यन्ते मुहूर्ताथ दिनानिच  
अर्धमासाथ मासाथ नक्षत्राणि महीस्तथा  
श्रुतवधापि युज्यन्ते तथा सप्तसरोऽपिच  
एव बलविभागेन बालचक्र प्रवर्तते ॥

This led us to doubt if the term युग (Yuga) in the present day sense was at all in use in the Vedic age for measuring time. The lines like the following from the Vedas clearly show that the term युग (Yuga) indicated a very small period of time, one which could be measured in the human life - "दीर्घतमा मासस्यो जुबुर्वा न दशमे युगे" Rig V 11 58-6

"Dirghatama, the son of Mamata became old in the 10th Yuga"

While the above 2 verses led us to suspect if the terms कल्प (Kala), ऋतु (Ritu), and नक्षत्र (Nakashatra) may have been time units and the use of अर्धमास<sup>1</sup> (Ardhamasa) in place of पक्ष (Paksha) was also significant.

The following lines from the Brahmanas made us ponder and think if there could have been an age when they used a year consisting of 13 months, and it was also worth while to find why the term रात्रौ (Ratni) has been used in place of तिथि.

1. Cf. ते वा 3 11 1

(a) ' लोकोऽस्ति सप्तोऽसि सप्तसरोऽसि नक्षत्रेऽसि । ऋतुना ऋतिरा मासस्य सप्तसरो भित्ति । अर्धमासानां प्रत्ययः । अर्धमासस्य मास भित्ति ।

(b) ते वे 7-5-25

' अहोरात्रे निमिषो अयमासा अर्धमासा सप्तमासि सप्तसरोऽसि ॥

months duration अह (Aha) and an equally long dark period रात्रि (Ratrin) See diagram given on last page.

5. When the Sun comes to the Celestial equator it becomes first visible to the residents of the Polar region. This phenomenon occurs only once after a year but its place of rising gradually shifts in a reverse direction.<sup>4</sup> Although this shifting is very slow, it cannot escape the notice of the observer where a long period of 1000 years may have passed.

6. Modern astronomy tells us that the rate of this shifting which is known as the precession of equinoxes is about 50.24 seconds per year, in other words the Sun would come to the same point of the ecliptic as the equinoctial Sun in about 25,790 or roughly in 26 000 years.<sup>5</sup>

7. One complete round of the Sun which would be equivalent to our day of 24 hours duration can be noted by the passage of the Sun past a pole fixed to denote the first position of the equinoctial sun or the East. When it would be a dark period of 6 months, this time unit would be observed by observing the successive passages of any particular star past the pole.<sup>6</sup>

8. The moon also would show a long period of time. So long as her declination is south she would remain invisible but as soon as the declination would be zero she would make her first appearance to the residents.<sup>7</sup> She would also whirl round and round to a height of about 30 degrees, and after giving a continuous light for about 15 days, would disappear again. See diagram on page 7.

The resident here will not fail to notice the following two peculiarities about the moon rise.

1. The periods between her two successive rises or sets is about 27.3 days.

4 See (वे अ ११२)

5 It will be shown later on that the early Vedic Rishis had adopted a period of 27 000 years, each consisting of 13 months of 27.3 days each. This comes to about 20 000 years of 365.25 mean solar days.

6. The pole was सधिव and the 24 hourly periods were the अह and रात्रि (not तिथि) in the early vedic age.

7 This was a very important event in the life of the Vedic Rishis and was termed the वरदर्शनम्. They made rejoicing and hailed her on her rise.

८ च वरदो भव त जायमानाद्भुज — १० अ-८५, १५

2 On the occasion of her rise she would appear with a different phase i.e. would appear every time new (नवो नवो भवति)

The following table specially calculated for the year 1963 would lend support to these conclusions.

Moon rises and sets at the North Pole during 1963 A. D.

1963 A. D.

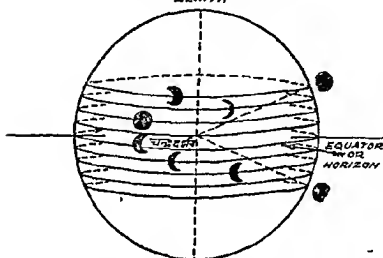
MOONRISE			MOONSET		
Date	Approx. Hour	Phase	Date	Approx. Hour	Phase
3rd Jan	6 Hour	S 7	17th Jan	0 Hour	K 7
30th Jan	12 "	S 5	13th Feb	6 "	K 5
26th Feb	18 "	S 3	12th Mar	12 "	K 2
25th Mar	19 "	S 1	8th April	18 "	S 15
22nd April	6 "	K 14	6th May	6 "	S 13
19th May	20 "	K 12	30th June	0 "	S 11
16th June	12 "	K 9	30th June	6 "	S 8
13th July	12 "	K 7	27th July	8 "	S 6
9th Aug.	16 "	K 4	23rd Aug	12 "	S 4
6th Sept.	0 "	K 2	19th Sept	22 "	S 2
3rd Oct	7 "	S 15	17th Oct	2 "	K 15
30th Oct	10 "	S 13	13th Nov	6 "	K 13
27th Nov	13 "	S 11	10th Dec.	9 "	K 10
24th Dec	12 "	S 8			

[ Note —The above Table gives approximate moments of mathematical rise of the Moon and of her set in the polar region during the year 1963 A. D. ]

9 The celestial equator slides on the ecliptic in a retrograde direction. In so doing it passes through each star whose latitude is less than  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees. Thus each of such stars can get its turn of being an eastern star. The equator can pass through the same star twice during the period of about 26,000 years, the two ages being separated by about 13,000 years. On the first occasion it intersects the ecliptic at an angle of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees, and on the other, it will be seen intersecting at an angle of  $180^\circ 23\frac{1}{2}'$  degrees. Thus if कृत्तिक् Krittika were an eastern star in the year 3,000 B.C. they were so even in the year 16,000 B.C.

MOON'S CONTINUOUS VISIBILITY = शुक्लपक्षः  
= WHITE HALF = प्रजापतेः अहः

ZENITH



CONTINUOUS — INVISIBILITY = कृष्णपक्षः  
= DARK HALF = प्रजापतेः रात्रिः

Another interesting thing about the risings of stars as an Eastern star, is that they do not necessarily rise in the chronological order of their place in the list of stars. Thus, although Aldeberan रोहिणी (Rohini) is a succeding star, it rose as Eastern star in the year 2160 B.C. while कृत्तिक् (Krittika) rose in 3000 B.C.

It can also be found from the above table that the moon creates a long continuous lighted night of more than 14 days and a continuous dark period of about 13 days

10 As the polar region is a very cold country, the resident there will have to make a provision against cold, this becomes necessary so particularly during the dark night of 6 months duration. Naturally enough, he must light fire and maintain the fire at any cost. During the long day of 6 months, however, he





(f) The period between two successive risings of the Moon above the horizon This was a **ग्रहापल्य अहोरात्र**

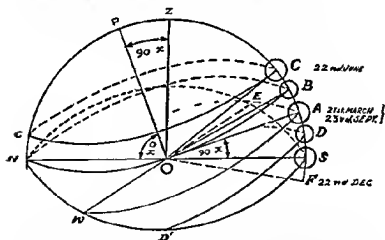
(g) The period between the two successive passages of the Sun, the Moon and of any one particular star past any fixed pole of observation. This was a **मासपी अहोरात्र**

16 The Northward and Southward turning of the Sun as is witnessed here is not observable in the Polar region His only<sup>11</sup> path is the circular whirling direction.

17 If the residents gradually come down in the plains leaving the polar abode, they will witness variable lengths for the long day and the long night. These will reduce from those of 180 days each to 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, month each and the number of daily rises and sets of the Sun (i. e. the common days) will increase, as the latitude would decrease.

[See diagram below ]

**VARIABLE APPEARANCES IN SUN'S  
ROTATIONS IN LAT.  $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N to  $90^{\circ}$  N.**



In the above figure, N W D' F E is the horizon of a place, whose latitude is  $x^{\circ}$  North E, S, W, N, are the four cardinal direction points. P is the North pole, Z the zenith. A is the point in the meridian N P Z A S, at which the mudday Sun comes

11 Cf. 'गान्धर्व' अरगाव दिग्दे 'दुसपुस्तके व

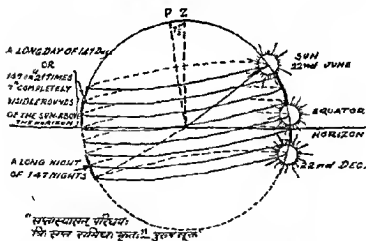
on equinoctial days. He crosses the meridian at C on 22nd June and at F on 22nd December. B is another position in the meridian where  $\angle AOB = \angle AOS = (90 - x)^\circ$ . Between S to B and B to S, the Sun would appear to rise and set every day and thus describe, what is called, a 'common day'. Between B to C and back from C to B, he is seen above the horizon and describing circles of rotation, describing what is called a long continuous day (अर्द्धः). Between S to F and back from F to S he is all along invisible, and therefore, for a resident at the North Pole, it is a continuous long night\*; long day and common days vary with the value of  $x$ .

*Example :—*

At a place in latitude  $82\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  N, find the variable appearances of the Sun.

( See diagram below ) :—

### SUN'S DIURNAL MOVEMENTS IN LAT. $82\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ N.



SUN'S DIURNAL MOVEMENTS IN LAT.  $82\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  N

Here  $x = 82\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ .  $\therefore 90 - x = 7\frac{1}{2}$ .

\* अर्द्धः or अर्द्धरात्रिः. The periods of long night.

Hence, between April 10 to Sept. 4 his declination varies from  $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  to  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  and back to  $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N. This period roughly consists of 148 days

Similarly, between  $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N to  $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S, he describes common days. This occurs between Sept. 5 to October 9, the period being 35 days. He thus describes a long day of 148 days, then 35 common days, then a long night of 147 days, and then again 35 common days.

The following Table will show the variations at different latitudes —

Lat.	Long days	Common days	Long night	common days	Lat.	Long days	Common days	Long Night	Common days.
90	183	—	182	—	75	104	79	103	79
85	161	22	161	22	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	118	65	118
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	153	30	152	30	69	60	123	59	123
82 $\frac{1}{2}$	148	35	147	35	63	36	147	35	147
80	135	43	134	48	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	183	—	182

If, therefore, we start with the assumption that the Aryans once lived in the North Polar region for a fairly long period, we should, as a natural corollary, expect to get descriptions of all the above mentioned scenes and conditions in the Vedic literature

An attempt has been made to show the correctness of our stand by quoting passages and lines from Vedic Samhitas and Brahmanas. Attempt has also been made to show how the early Vedic sages had evolved three systems of time units one after the other, how the succeeding generations tried to incorporate the traditional sub-divisions, and then how afterwards, when the Aryans left their Polar abode, the Sages modified these systems and also their sacrificial systems. It is also attempted to show how the Vedic passages can be sorted out into groups of *Suktas belonging to different Ages in their chronological order*

## SECTION II

### SYSTEMS OF TIME UNITS IN VEDIC AGE

The Surya Siddhant quotes the following verse which mentions nine kinds of systems of time units known in the 5th century A D It runs

ब्रह्म दैव्य तथा पृथ्व्य ग्राजापत्यं गुरोस्तथा  
लौक न रावन चाद्र नाक्षत्र \* \* \* ॥

Paras 4, 5 and 15 have helped us in coming to a conclusion that most of these systems were evolved and used by the early Vedic sages. It was their speciality that they evolved a terminology which they used uniformly in the case of each system. The opening verse of the "Introduction" viz कलकाप्याथ युज्यन्ते declares in unequivocal terms that *all the terms mentioned in it are invariably the time units*. These include the terms कल, ऋतु and नक्षत्र which are understood by us differently

The terms are.—

- 1 The Aha (अह) was the interval of time between two consecutive rises of any luminary above the horizon, रात्रि being the counterpart. The two together were called अहोरात्र or दिन, another name for अह was the word सवस्तर<sup>12</sup>.

Note 1 — The Vedic Sages appear to have evolved seven kinds of अह's as described in sub paras of the para 15 they were —

The अह of ब्रह्मा, नक्षत्र, देव, प्रजापति, मानव, वृहस्पति and शिव (Saturn)

Note 2 The unit 'मास' or the month of our conception never existed in these times )

- 2 Paksha (पक्ष) —Each of these सवस्तर's or अह's had two sides, one being a complete bright half (शुक्ल) and the other

being a complete dark half (कृष्ण) The two halves determined by the rise and set of the sun were known as the पूर्वपक्ष and अपरपक्ष<sup>13</sup> Those created by the Moon were known as the शुक्लपक्ष and कृष्णपक्ष respectively Later on, as the Ages rolled by, the lunar month became a time unit known as the मास and the two halves came to be known as the अर्धमास

3 मुहूर्त, काष्ठ and कल were the sub-divisions of the Aha (अह), each succeeding one being the 30th part of the preceding one thus

30 Kalas make 1 Kashtha  
30 Kashthas make 1 Muhurta  
30 Muhurtas make 1 Ahoratra

Note 1 We get the following references about these small time units as were understood in the time of Mahabharat

- (a) "बाह्या कला मुहूर्ताश्च दिवारात्रिस्तथाह्वयाः" — शांति० पर्व अ० ७-२१  
(b) "सर्वस्तरान् कद्रुन् मासान् पक्षानथ ल्यान् क्षणान्" शांति० अ० ३७-१४  
(c) सर्व निमेषा जक्षिरे विद्युत् पुण्यादधि ॥

कला मुहूर्ता वाप्यथाह्वयानि ॥ नारायण उप अतु १

Note 2 We have not been able to find a relation between निमिष, लव and क्षण

Note 3 At the time of अर्धव्योम्बोधि the time units appear to have been well set. It gives the units as follows

12 Nimeshas make 1 Lava	}	30 Kashthas make 1 Muhurta
30 Lavas make 1 Kala		30 Muhurtas make 1 Ahoratra
30 Kalas make 1 Kashtha		

## A

### THE BRAHMA'S SYSTEM (ब्राह्मी गणना)

This appears to have undergone changes at least thrice during a period of 8000 years. These changes are described in the following three stages —

Stage I Brahma's Ahoratra = 24 000 YEARS

The following references found in different works go to support our inference that initially the Brahma's Aha was equivalent to 24,000 years —

13 पूर्वपक्ष देशतः कृष्णपक्षः अपरपक्ष अन्वयः । पूर्वपक्षमित्यत्र ततो देशान्तरं परपक्षः ।  
— तै अ २-२-१-१

(a) “एतत् द्वादश सहस्रं कथितं देविकं युगं” — मनुस्मृति

(b) एषा चतुर्युगवृत्तिः आसहस्रात् प्रवर्तते  
ब्रह्माणस्तदहः प्रोक्तं . . . . .

(c) “एष मन्वन्ति युगसहस्रं सन्निस्ताविताहोरात्रा अजस्रं परिवर्तते स कालस्तदहः भवति युगं सहस्रपर्यन्तं अहर्षद् ब्रम्हणो विदुरानि युगं सहस्रान्ता” निरुक्तं अध्याय १४४

The Brahma's Ahoratri appears to have been suggested to ancient Sages by the observation of the gradual retrograde shifting of the Sun's rising position in the horizon of the Polar region. They appear to have found that the Sun shifts the place by an interval of about 1000 years, and at the end of this interval a new star rises in the East. The number of Naksatras or Asterisms of stars according to the then belief was only 24. Later on, they included Abhijit, and split up into two parts each of the three groups of Phalguni, Ashadha, and Bhadrapada under the names of Purva and Uttara. These observations may have given them a clue therefore to evolve the following broad time units

Brahma's Ahoratra = 24,000 Years = 2,000 Yuga's of 12 years each

= Two Mahakalpa's<sup>14</sup>

= 24 small Kalpa's<sup>15</sup>

= 4 Mahayuga's of 6,000 years each

= 30 Muhurta's or Naksatras of 800 years each

Stage II Brahma's Ahoratra = 28,000 YEARS

As ages rolled by, the Sages appear to have found inaccuracy in time units. They immediately appear to have made an adjustment corresponding to 28 “Constellation-system” as follows —

14 The following lines from Bhagavadgita supports the view that Brahma's Aha was equivalent to one Kalpa —

(1) सर्वसृष्टानि कौन्तेय भवन्ति यन्ति मारिचः । कल्पक्षये पुनस्तानि कल्पाश्चैव विवर्त्यते ॥

(2) एतद्ब्रुवन्मया श्रुत्वा त्वं विदुः । सृष्टिं पुनस्तस्यां तां तेषां सृष्टिं जना

(3) अथ तत्रान्न व्यक्तं सदा प्रहृल्यदृश्यते । सत्त्वगने प्रतीयन्ते तेषां व्यक्तकर्मणः

15 Diwan Bahadur S K. Pillai mentions the following six Kalpa's in Brahma's "Purvanha" or First Half day —

(1) Koorma कूर्म

(2) Parthiva पृथिवी

(3) Savitra सवित्र and

(4) Pralaya प्रलय

(5) Varaha वराह

(6) Brahma ब्रह्म

Brahma's Ahoratra = 28,000 Years  
 = 28 Nakshatra's  
 = 28 Kalpa's<sup>16</sup>  
 = One Mahakalpa

They appear to have divided the 'Ahoratra' into four main quadrants viz., (1) Poorvanha, (2) Aparanha, (3) Poorvaratri and (4) Apararatri. The following oft-quoted verse gives us a clue to understand how they counted the parts:

वह्नि शयानो भवति संजिहानस्तु द्वारः ।  
 उत्तिष्ठन् प्रेता भवति कूर्तं संपश्यते चरन्

(Note: The terms वह्नि, द्वार etc. stood for numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively; वह्नि represented the part associated with Brahma's evening, द्वार with that of his night and so on.)

At the end of each Yuga or Kalpa, some important person held the office of "ruling" the race. He was known as "Manu"<sup>17</sup> It will be interesting to note that a मन्वन्तर coincided with the युगन्तर.

**Stage iii: Brahma's Ahoratra = 27,000 YEARS**

When the Aryans may have left the Polar region, they may have seen the daily rise and set of the Sun, and that his 360 such rises were taken to be equivalent to a Divine (देवी) day or equal to a Human (मानुषी) year. The Muhurta or the Nakshatra appears to have undergone another modification along with the length of Brahma's Ahoratra which was now taken to be a period of 27000 years, corresponding to 27 Nakshatras, since now they discarded Abhijit from the list.

Brahma's Ahoratra = 30 Muhurta's of 900 years each,  
 = 27,000 years = 27 Yuga's<sup>18</sup> of 1,000 years each.

16. The Vāyu Purāṇa gives a list of 28 different Kalpas in the 21st Chapter.

17. At the time of Sage Vyasa four Manu's were known to have ruled the human race.

18. The term Nakshatra was another time unit for Yuga, which first consisted of 1000 years, then of 900 years and then finally equal to 800 years, as Ages rolled by.

- 1 Muhurta = 30 Kashtha's = 900 years = 1 Naksatra.  
 1 Kashtha = 30 Kala's = 30 years.  
 1 Kala = One human year.  
           = One Divine Aha of 360 human days.  
           = 30 Lava's of 12 days each  
 1 Lava = 12 Nimesha = 12 human days.  
 1 Nimesha = 1 human day.<sup>19</sup>

## B

## THE NAKSATRA SYSTEM (नाक्षत्रगणना)

The "Naksatra" was the period of time taken by a star group to remain as an Eastern star after the preceding star. E. g.: The following stars must have come to the Celestial<sup>v</sup> Equator in the century years noted against them:

Star	Year	Interval
Kritikas	16000 Yrs. B. C.	1000 Years.
Shatataraka	15000 "	1000 "
Dhanushtha	14000 "	1000 "
Shravana	13000 "	700 "
Chitra	12300 "	
Ardra	4000 "	
Kumbha	3000 "	1000 "
Revati	2140 "	800 "



time interval is 1000 years. Then, they modified the period to 900 years (Kalas) and later on to 800 (Kalas).

Note. The Surya Siddhant quotes the following line,

“ निशतद्वल्यो युगे भाना चक्रं प्राक् परिव्यते ”

वृत्ति. = Square. निशतद्वल्यो = 900. This means that the cycle of stars shifts its place 900 times during a युग.

## C

### DIVINE SYSTEM (देवीगणना)

The Divine day was determined by the Sun's movement through the Divine half (देवभाग or देवयान) It was a period of about 6 months or 180 human days. Different quotations from Vedic works have led us to believe that the work of dividing this period into subdivisions was carried out in four distinct stages. The अह्न was subdivided into 2, 3, 4 and 5 parts in the Vedic age. The object of making such divisions was to enable the sacrificers to undertake the vow in instalments of two, three, four or five subperiods.

### STAGE I

In the beginning the sacrifices used to be performed in honour of (देवा) Gods and (वितर) or the Manes. The first one used to be started in the beginning of the Aha which was called the प्रात and the second one was commenced in the evening साय or सायम्. According to the writer of Tai Br the Deity in charge of the साय was वरुण (VARUNA)

This leads us to believe that शततारका was the last star at the end of the Divine path and पूर्वकल्लुनी was the First star whose deity was अग्न. The subdivisions of the Sun's अह्नोरान्न were therefore, as follows —

- ( 1 ) प्रात Governing Deity being अग्न and पूर्वक the star.
- ( 11 ) साय, Governing Deity being वरुण and शततारका the star.

### STAGE II

The Divine Aha further appears to have been divided into

three subdivisions.<sup>21</sup> These were created to enable the sacrificer to satisfy the देवों's, आत्माओं's, and पितृ's. The sacrifices meant to appease Gods were to be started in the morning. The Veda to be made use of was the ऋग्वेद and the sub-part was to be called the पूर्वाह्न. The middle part was to be called the मध्यदिन and यजुर्वेद was to be made use of at this time. The purpose of undertaking these sacrifices was to offer oblations to those "humans" who had in any way obliged the sages. They were the Rishis and Acharyas. Those who stuck up to the performance of these sacrifices alone perhaps came to be known as "मार्घदिनाः".<sup>22</sup> The third set of sages performed the sacrifices in honour of Pitri's and used to start them in the third part known as अपराह्न. The three subdivisions were therefore called the पूर्वाह्न-माध्याह्न-अपराह्न.

### STAGE III

We now come to a stage when re-orientation of the Astronomical and Sacrificial systems becomes evident. The Vedic sages evolved 5 systems of undertaking the sacrifices, according as these were started in the beginning of each subdivisions. For this purpose they appear to have created sacrifices of short durations, the names of the sacrifices being the षोडशी, उक्थ्य, अतिरात्र, etc.

The passages are clear enough to show that while evolving new time units the sages were careful to see that they maintain the tradition as far as possible. The four deities of the four kinds of sacrifices were मित्र (I. e., अनुराधा) and वरुण (शततारका), बृहस्पति (तिष्य) and भग (पू. फ.)

This appears to be the last stage of subdividing the Divine

21 The following lines can be quoted in support of our view

( १ ) ऋग्भिः पूर्वाह्ने दिवि देव देयते । यजुर्वेदे तिष्ठति मध्ये चाह्नः  
सामवेदेनास्तमये महीयते । वेदेऽह्नयेऽभिभिरेति सूर्यः ॥

22 ( १ ) पूर्वाह्णे वै देवानां, मध्यदिनो मनुष्याणां, अपराह्नः पितॄणां ।

( २ ) पर्जन्याय प्रणयत दिवस्पृशाय भीळहुते । स नो यक्समिच्छतु ॥

—शत० ब्रा. २-४-२-८

This is a part of the पर्जन्यहोम to be uttered in a माध्याह्निकेन

day for their sacrificial purposes. These five parts<sup>21</sup> were also called the ऋतु's, one Divine अह being equivalent to five ऋतु's. The following lines from Brahmana's are significant and very clear

They support our view. They are

- (1) आदित्यस्त्वेव सर्वं नृत्तव यदेवोदेति अथ वसत यदा सगवाऽथ प्रीष्य यदा मध्यदिनोऽथ वर्षा, यदा अपराह्णोऽथ शरदः यदेवास्तमेति अथ हेमन्त ॥ श्रु. ब्रा. २.२.३.९
- (2) तस्मात् उच्यते सूर्यादिकृणोर्वि सगव प्रस्तोति मध्यदिन उद्गायति अपराह्ण प्रतिहरति अस्त यन्मियन! अथर्वे स १६४६

The Divine day appears to be regarded as a bird having a beak, two wings the stomach and the tail. The five ऋतु's were allotted the five places in the body as mentioned in the following lines from Tai Br (3-10-4-1)

तस्य वे वसत शिरः। प्रीष्यो दक्षिणः पक्षः। वर्षां पुच्छः।  
शरदुत्तरः पक्षः। हेमन्तो मध्यः।

## STAGE IV

When the Divine day came to be understood as the human year, or सवत्सर, it was again subdivided to subdivisions of a different nomenclature. They now believed that the year consisted of 360<sup>22</sup> days or 720 days and nights together. They divided this period of 360 days into 12 and 30 parts respectively. It is our belief that in making these subdivisions they were guided by the अह's of Jupiter and Saturn which were 12 years and 30 years respectively. That these periods were actually suggestible can be proved from the following table in which the rises and sets of Jupiter over the horizon of the Polar region are given

Jupiter's Rise		Jupiter's Set	
Date	Interval 12 Years Short by 16 days	Date	Interval 12 Years, Short by 4 days
Oct. 25 1909		Aug. 7 1915	
Oct. 9 1921	16	Aug. 3 1927	4
Sept. 23 1933	16	July 31 1939	
Sept. 7 1945	17		
Aug. 21 1957			

23. Later on when the Aryans came to the south of lat. 66° they saw a day of 12 hours duration, and they applying the traditional analogy divided the human day into 5 parts of these very names with which we are familiar today

### Sub-Divisions of Divine Day

30 Kala = 1 Kashtra	{	30 Muhurta = 1 (human) day.
30 Kashtra = 1 Muhurta		30 days = 1 Masa
		12 Masa = 1 Aha (or Samvatsar) of 360 days.

As has been stated above, the Divine whole day was measured by observing the successive sunrises. His day was the period between sunrise and sunset and this half division of the day was known as the देवभाग and देवयान and the counterpart was the अश्वभाग or वितयान. The Sunrise was definitely an event of festivity because, the residents were to be relieved from the troubles of the long night of six months and were to get a continuous light for a period of another six months. A well known verse chanted by us today reminds us of a possible custom amongst the Deva's viz, to ring bells to mark the moment when the ऋतु's day or the old year was going to end and a new year to begin [See foot note 27 on page 25 later on]

### D

### PRAJAPATI'S SYSTEM (प्राजापती गणना)

#### Who was Prajapati?

Prajapati was the Civil and Religious Authority controlling and organizing the Sacrificial system of the Sages during the 'night' portion of the Divine 'day'. Just as the 1st half lighted by the Sun was known as the Divine Aha or Divine Samvatsar (cf एतन् वा एतन् देवानां अहं यन् सवत्सर), so the nocturnal half was known as the Prajapati's Samvatsar. Their main guide during this period was the Moon and hence, the Moon came to be known as the Prajapati. So long as the Aryans lived in the Polar region, the two Samvatsar's were equal in length. The Divine Samvatsar and the Prajapati's Samvatsar were subdivided into smaller time units exactly on the same principle.

- (i) One Divine Samvatsar = 15 Muhurtas  
One Muhurta = 12 Ahoratra
- (ii) One Prajapati's Samvatsar = 15 Kalas  
One Kala = 12 Kashtra.

The relation between Kala and Kashtra was the same as that between Muhurta and Ahoratra in the Divine system. This

is borne by the well known line "कला मुहूर्ता. काप्यथाहोरात्राणि" नारायण उप •

Another line viz, "कलामुहूर्तयुज्यन्ते मुहूर्ताश्च दिनानिच" from M. B. supports our view that the 1st two were employed (युज्यन्ते) to measure one time unit and the second one for another unit.

(Note. The same analogy appears to have been applied to the subdivision of a human day of 24 hours' duration e. g

$$\begin{array}{l|l} 1 \text{ Aha} = 15 \text{ Muhurta} & 1 \text{ Ratri} = 15 \text{ Lava,*} \\ 1 \text{ Muhurta} = 15 \text{ Nimusha} & 1 \text{ Lava} = 12 \text{ Kshana.} \end{array}$$

As ages passed by, and the arjans left their abode and descended into lower latitudes, the length of the Divine Aha began to diminish and that of the Prajapati's Aha began to increase, till at last, when they settled down in regions south of 66½° N latitude, the Prajapati's Samvatsar came to be recognised as a year of 360 whole days or 720 'days' and nights" together E. g, The Tai Sam, quotes the following line

' तस्य त्रीणि च शतानि पण्डित्य स्तोत्रेया सावती सप्तसहस्र रात्रय "

—तै स ७-५-१

The Shatapath Br quotes the following lines

सप्तसहस्रे वे प्रजापतिरग्नि । तस्य वा एतस्य सप्तसहस्र

प्रचारते सप्त च शतानि विंशतिश्च होराणि, --शत --वा १०-४-२

Before describing in detail the various changes which appear to have taken place in the magnitude (length of a Prajapati's Samvatsar,) it is proposed to describe the Vedic sacrificial system which was used to measure various time units in different Ages. In employing various kinds of adjustments to prevailing astronomical conditions, the sages appear to have followed the following principles uniformly

1 The symmetry of the Samvatsar should be maintained at all costs (Cf सप्तसहस्र समस्त वेदितव्या—श्र द्वा १२३४)

2 The daily sacrifices were to be so planned that they would always measure the Divine Aha, and so were the nightly sacrifices.

3 The Equinoctial day (विषुवात्) was to be at its exact place in all kinds of 'set up'

\* Cf 'सप्तसहस्र, कलान्, मासान्, पक्षानथ खान् क्षणान्"

प्रजापतिः प्रजाऽऽजः । स तिरिक्त्वानोऽन्यत्र ॥ सतरोऽप्यत्र । स आत्मनि चोर्वमपश्यत् ॥  
सा भिराजन्मत् ॥ तां देवाऽभिराजन्मत् सोऽजोऽप्रजापतिः मम वा एषा ॥ दोहा एव युष्मा-  
कमस्मिन् ॥ गा ततः प्राच्यऽस्मत् ॥ ततः प्रजापतिः पर्यवृत्तः ॥... ..

पुनरागस्त्येतिष्ठते ॥ साऽगस्त्येनैवातन् ॥ सा तन उ-संरोहन् ॥ सा रोहिण्यमवन् ॥  
तरोहिण्यं रोहिण्योत्तमम् ॥ रोहिण्यामभिनाशनीम् ॥

व.आ १-१-१०-६

"The Prayapati pondered. He thought that his belly was being emptied. He started a penance. He began to feel that he was getting a creative impulse. It developed. He created a new Universe (विश्वः) He asked the Gods and Demons to accept the new distribution and asked the sages to use the new set up' for sacrifices.... Then the 'Virat' flew up. She became known as the Rohini (i.e., one who ascends); start the sacrifices on Rohini."

The control of Krittikas continued so long as the Rohini was South of the Equator and hence invisible. Her entering the Divine half is interpreted as her "ascending to heaven". The star Mṛigashirṣa\* which was still invisible, but was to become visible after some centuries, is spoken of as following or pursuing the 'Rohini'. Her red colour is ascribed to her becoming bashful. The same astronomical phenomenon is described by the Āitareya Brahman in a different way.

In order to enable the readers to rightly appreciate the discussion about Prajapati's system of time units, it is proposed to describe the sacrificial systems in Vedic Ages.

१९ प्रजापतिश्च १९० इन्द्रात्तन् अश्विन्याम् । त देवाऽश्विनव । अश्विनं च प्रजापति कथेतीति  
कथितव्यम् । तमेतं सूत्रं इत्यादिनां परं च न सूत्रं च स उ एव स या वे हेतु सा रोहिणी ॥

## SECTION III

### THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM IN VEDIC AGE

( A means of measuring time )

The following well known verse very well explains the relation of Sacrificial system with that of time units

वेदादि यज्ञार्थमभिप्रायता ॥ कालानुपूर्व्या विदित्वाथ यज्ञा ॥  
तस्मादिदं कालविधानशस्त्रं ॥ यो ज्योतिष वेद सवेदवैज्ञान् ॥

— वेदमज्योतिष

“ The Vedic hymns were composed for sacrifices, which in their turns depended upon a suitable time for their performance.” It is believed that all the six branches of Veda ( वेदाणां ) grew round the sacrificial fire. They required the correct positions of the Sun and the Moon and those of the Stars. They wanted directions. They marked the position of the Sun's rising place by fixing up a stick to indicate the East. They used to count the whirlings of the Sky along with those of the Sun, the Moon and the Stars by marking their passages in front of the Easterly Pole ( ध्रुव or समिध् ) They called the Sun's rotations as the अह's and those of stars as the रात्री s.

They appear to be using a peculiar system of measuring time by performing sacrifices in a particular order. We come across words like the एकद्वि, त्र्यह पञ्च, दशाह, etc., meaning sacrifices lasting for one day, three days, six days, ten days and so on. The night sacrifices called the एकरात्रि, निरात्रि, दशरात्रि, अतिरात्रयज्ञा used to be performed to attain the same purpose.

### FIXATION OF CARDINAL DIRECTIONS

They started a year by commencing a yearly sacrifice called the स्रवत्सयज्ञ on the vernal Equinox day. It was called a त्रिपुवन्. They used to take a vow to perform a sacrifice lasting for different periods. The longest being a six monthly or a yearly sacrifice. This ceremony was well known as the महाव्रतम् which coincided with

the first appearance of the Sun above the horizon. It indicated the beginning of the Divine day and the end of the Asura's day. They used to ring bells" to commemorate the occasion. The point in the horizon where the Sun used to make his first appearance was the most important position. It was known as the *प्राची* (i. e., the East). They similarly noted the point in the horizon where the Sun used to set after six months. It was known as the *पश्ची*. They marked two more intermediate positions, calling them as the *अवची*, (the lowest, the South) and *उदीची*, the highest, the North. The Zenithal position was called the *उर्ध्व*. The Nadir was unknown and indeterminable. It was called the *अधः* (i. e., not determinable in relation to the Earth). These four directions were useful to them during the Divine day, when the Sun was visible continuously for a fairly long period. But when he set in the *पश्ची* (West) how were they marking the various directions? They used to mark the advent of the Divine night by lighting the fire exactly in the direction of the Easterly Pole. It was known as the *आग्नेय* i. e., a direction belonging to Agni or fire. The other three directions used to be called after the Deities who had, in the distant past Ages occupied those directions. They were called as the *वैश्वानर* i. e. the one belonging to the *विकृति*, or Demon which was a synonym of *असुर* the third direction was known as the *वायव्य* (i. e. the direction belonging to वायु or मरुत् the Wind God) and the fourth one was called as *ईशान्य* i. e., a direction belonging to the God *इशान्*. In the beginning, the set of nocturnal directions coincided with that of those of the day. The first set was made use of during the Divine Samvatsar and the second set during the Prajapati's Samvatsar. After thousands of years, when the star *पूर्वा* (फल्गुनी) had its turn of being the first star because of its rise in exact East the *प्राची* came to be called the *पूर्वा* or the direction (in the front), the other directions being called the *पश्चिम* (at the back) the *दक्षिण* (that, to the right) and *उत्तर* (that to the left).

27 Even today we chant the following Mantra while worshipping a bell

स्वयमर्च्यं तु देवता यमनार्च्यं तु यज्ञरात्रि  
 इह पदार्थं तत्र देवतायामनर्च्यम्

In our opinion the Vedic custom has been preserved by the Christians even today since they ring bells on the midnight of the 31st December each year saying we ring the old year out and we ring the new year in. It is, in a way, welcoming the advent of the fresh year.



So long as the Aryans were the residents of the Polar region, the East gradually altered its place, and hence, the whole set of four directions, changed its place with respect to stars. But when they came to the plains there was no more a continuous long day and night, and the four directions were found to be stationary for times to come. But, the second set still continued to change its position, because the position of the *आग्नेय* depended upon that of the Eastern Star. So after every 1000 years, this set rotated through  $130^\circ$ , till an Age came when this set took the present position of auxiliary directions (*उषदिशा* or *अवान्तरदिशा*). We find in the Vedic literature a reference to such an adjustment.<sup>28</sup>

The directional system appears to have undergone three changes. In the 1st stage, there were only two directions (*प्राची* and *पश्चिमी*) for the day and only two (*आग्नेया* and *वायव्या*) for the night, because in the most ancient Vedic Ages the Deities were limited in number, the Principal Deities being *Agni*, *Vayu* and *Sun*. Later on, they evolved two more directions for the day and the night each, their names being *अषाढी-उदीची* and *पैत्री-दैवी*, the latter changing into *नैऋत्या* and *ईशान्या* respectively

Stage I		Stage II		Stage III	
East = प्राची and आग्नेय		<div style="text-align: center;">E</div> <p style="text-align: center;">प्राची &amp; आग्नेय</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>N</span><span>S</span> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">उदीची &amp; दैवी    अषाढी &amp; पैत्री</p> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">प्राची (आग्नेय)</div> <div style="text-align: center;">अषाढी</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">उदीची</div> <div style="text-align: center;">दैवी (नैऋत्या)</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">ईशान्या</div> <div style="text-align: center;">पश्चिमी</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">(वायव्या)</div>	
West = पश्चिमी & वायव्या		प्राची & आग्नेय			

Stage IV	Principal (प्रधान)		Subsidiary (अवान्तर)	
	उत्तर	दक्षिण	ईशान्या	नैऋत्या
				वायव्या

Note - It will be interesting to note that the Principal Directions bear the names of the Sun's different positions while, those for subsidiary directions are those of the Deities governing the concerning stars situated at those positions. These relative

28 दो वा अथवा अथवा दिने रेह—द्वे चतुः वाग वाग  
अथवा अथवा दिने वाग अथवा अथवा वाग

positions are true for the year 7000 B. C. when पूर्वा (फल्गुनी) became an Eastern Star

## KINDS OF SACRIFICES

The Pandits of this Age have maintained the tradition of performing various kinds of sacrifices. Standard works on this subject describe a number of them in detail. These could be grouped into following kinds

**I Annual.** The ancient Vedic names for these sacrifices were आदित्यानामयनम्, आग्निरसानामयनम्, गवामयनम् (The cow s walk) and so on. The गवामयनम् appears to have been a sacrifice of varying lengths e. g. a सप्तमा (Seven monthly sacrifice), नवमा, दशमा etc.

### II Sacrifices of small durations :

(a) One day sacrifice (एकदिवस) The Aitareya Brahmana describes some examples of such sacrifices. They are known as the अग्निष्टोम. The following are the main six kinds अल्पमिष्टोम, उक्थम्, षोडशी, चानपेय, अतिरात्र and आपोयम

[Note - Although these sacrifices, have come to mean 'one day' sacrifices in our opinion, these were created<sup>29</sup> by Prajapati as adjustments to sacrifices which are not commenced in the beginning (Morning) of a Samvatsar. The names षोडशी (16th) and अतिरात्र (long night), अल्पमिष्टोम (a long अग्निष्टोम) are very significant.]

### (b) Sacrifices of the duration of 2 to 12 days

These were called the अहिना (AHINA). A three day sacrifice is known as the त्र्यह. It includes the following kinds of three sacrifices उज्योतिष्टोम, गोष्टोम and अशुष्टोम. A nine-night sacrifice (नवरात्रि) consists of three repetitions of the त्र्यह s. A twelve day Ahina includes three त्र्यह s a tenth day sacrifice and two ordinary one-day sacrifices known as अतिरात्र

### (c) Sacrifices of higher duration ranging from 13 days to 1000 years

29 Readers are requested to refer to the passage given in the footnotes 20 & 21 given before. According to our view a षोडशी may have represented a one day sacrifice performed on the 16th night and अतिरात्र a one day sacrifice performed on the 1st night of a long night period of any duration

These were called the *Satras* (सत्र) or sessions. Of them the following were very common in the early Vedic Ages. Sacrifices of 13, 15, 17, 21, 24, & 25 days. The 21 day sacrifice was the most important one and has been described by all Vedic works as the "एकविंश." A consecrator was required to take a vow of performing a six nightly sacrifice or sacrifices of the duration of 12, 13 or 15 nights. The reasons are given in the following stanza

पद्मानी दीक्षित स्यात् पद्म वा \* कृतव सवत्सर  
द्वादश रात्रौ दीक्षित स्यात् द्वादशमासा सवत्सर  
त्रयोदश रात्रौ दीक्षित स्यात् त्रयोदश<sup>३१</sup>मासा सवत्सर  
पचदश रात्रौ दीक्षित स्यात् पचदश वा अर्धमासस्य रात्रय

### A 21-Day Sacrifice

We come across the term "एकविंश" meaning a 21-day sacrifice at scores of places in the Vedic literature describing the Sacrificial matters. This number has a special importance from astronomical point of view. The sun while turning from North to South and vice versa, is almost stationary at the highest and at the lowest positions for about 21 days. This fact could not have escaped the notice of our Ancient Sages who used to keep a watch for days together. The central day during the 21 day period was also designated as the एकविंश. We find its mention in so many places. For example, while describing a formula for completing a 'twelve Samvatsar' cycle of the Prajapati, the ऋग्वेद ब्राह्मण quote, the following line "यत्र दिवसा सप्तसप्तत्रयं पचदशं त्रयं सप्तदशं त्रयं एकविंशं प्रजापते द्वादशं सवत्सरम्" (Chp 25-Sec. 6). The *Tai Br* says "एकविंशमहर्षेवति ॥ शुक्लमा प्रह्ण एते ॥" The *Shatapatha Brahmana* (13.4.4) explains a sacrifice undertaken in honour of Ashvamedha as follows. He mentions that 2 yupas are to be used. They are to be made of different kinds of wood—रज्जुराल, शिबुदाह, यक्षिर, बिल्व, पलाश, and others. — "एकविंशत्यूपौ सर्वे एकविंशतिरत्नस्य रज्जुरालेऽपि चो भवति."

30 A six-day sacrifice was known as the षष्ठि. It had two kinds. The अग्निष्टव and the ऋष्य. These were useful in measuring a month of 30 days.

31 When the lunar month was regarded as consisting of 28 days the number of lunar months were naturally 13 occurring in one year. A year as equivalent to 13 months refers to a very old traditional conception in use in the Early Vedic Age.

Trans: "The poles are 21 and the cows also are 21. They are to be placed systematically at 21 specifically mentioned positions round the fire.

The Aitareya Brahmana (18 18) has quoted a very important passage in which it is mentioned that the Gods lifted the sun to heaven by means of the एरिषि. This passage is an important one in the fact that it tells that the Sages in the later Vedic Age made modifications in the performance of the 21-day sacrifice. While in former times, it used to spread over 10 days on each side of the दिवादीत्येयं day, later on, they had to perform "a 7 day sacrifice before and a three day sacrifice beyond," to enable the Sun to maintain his highest position.<sup>32</sup>

Even the पुरासूक्त mentions the number 21 in another form. It quotes the number 147 in a peculiar way. It says सप्ताह्यासन परिधयः त्रिं सप्त सभिधः स्यात्.

"10, 24, 25 day"—Sacrifices :

That such short period sacrifices were found to be necessary for adjustment will be evident from Mantras quoted from the "Brahmanas". For example, the शतपथ ब्रा० quotes a passage (सं० १२-अ० १-ब्रा २) which mentions these sacrifices

"अथद्या वे देवा दीक्षा निरभिन्नत आदित्ये प्रावणीय सोमात् कव  
विष्णोरातिथ्य सप्तसप्त चतुर्विंशति ॥ सप्तसप्त दशममह प्रजापते  
महामतः सप्तसप्तो भवति। सप्तसप्तो भूत्या देवातप्येति।"

III Special Sacrifices known as the राजसूय, अश्वमेध, etc.

Movements of the Sun and the Moon.

These luminaries have been regarded as the "Eyes" of Gods. (cf चक्षुषी इ वा अस्य शुक्रमयिनी ॥ तद्वा एष एव शुक्र य एष तपति ॥ तपत्य तपति ते वैष शुक्र ) -- शत ब्रा 4-2-1 These were the eyes set to give light to the divine and non-divine halves. The first (viz Sun) was known to be "guarding the interest" of the Gods (cf त्वचक्षुर्द्वन्द्वित पुरस्तात् ) The Rik Sam quotes the following two verses which describe the concept of the sages about these luminaries

पूर्वापरं चरत माययेतीं विष्णुं क्रौडन्तीं परियातोऽन्वरम्  
विधान्यन्त्यो भुवनाभिचक्रे अतुन्यो विदधाम् जायते पुन ॥

32 'परविशमेतद्वहस्पति विवृत मध्ये उवाचतत् ॥ एतन् वे देवा एरिषिण आदित्येयं स्वर्गाय लोकाय उक्षेप्यन् स एष शति परविशमेतत् दशममहद्वहस्पति दिवादीत्येयं भवति दश पञ्चास मय एष परविश उवाचते निरुजि तत्र ये अवाचतत् कचक्षुषी भवति य एष सप्ताह्य मय एष परविश

The Sun and the Moon are regarded as two children playing on their road which passed through the two halves of the "Heaven (पृथ्वी) One of them (Sun) determined the ऋतुs while the other one determined the heavens (भुवनानि)

The next verse shows how the moon's first appearance was hailed with joy, since *it was new each time*<sup>33</sup>

The Moon was helpful in determining short periods of time. Her cycle consisted of a continuous white (lighted) part called the शुक्लपक्ष and a continuous dark half known as the कृष्णपक्ष. The former was a period of more than 14 nights and the second one consisted of about 13 nights. In the earlier stages this period may have been regarded as of 15 plus 13 or 28 nights, each period being called a मास (month). The Sun's complete round of the heavens was therefore, naturally regarded as equivalent to 13 rounds of the heavens by the Moon. Hence a सवत्सर came to be known as त्रयोदशमासा. The first half (अर्धमास) contained 15 nights and hence we get the line पञ्चदश कार्धमासस्य रात्रयः. It is our feeling that this must be the reason why the moon is said to be 'पञ्चदश'. The Tai Br quotes the following line चन्द्रमा पञ्चदश । स पञ्चदश्यां आपूर्यते पञ्चदश्या अपक्षीयते " It means that "the Moon becomes full on the 15th night and loses her brilliancy on the 15th night.

## PRAJAPATI'S SAMVATSARA

(Various stages)

In the beginning the Prajapati was the synonym of the Moon and the bright half of the Moon's day was called the Prajapati's Samvatsara. Its length appears to have been of 14 days<sup>34</sup> as is suggested by the following line from the Tandya Br त्रयः निरुता नि पञ्चदश प्रजापते द्वादश सवत्सर । It clearly means that the Prajapati's 12 Samvatsaras are equivalent to the sacrifices of 3 15 17 and 21 days performed three times each. The same work repeats the formula for 1000 Samvatsaras of Prajapati the sacrifices to be repeated 250 times (cf पञ्चपचाशत् निरुता पञ्चपचाशत् ) But as ages rolled on the Divine half came to be

33. cf. नवो नवो भवति त्रायमासोऽर्धः शुद्धिमासः ।

म. श्र. १-१-१ ८५ ११

34.  $[3 + 15 + 17 + 21] \times 3 = 168 \text{ days} = 12 \text{ Times} \times 14 \text{ days.}$

known as the देवानां संवत्सरः and the second half as the प्रजापतेः संवत्सरः, each half being equivalent to 180 days each, with विद्युवान् as the extra central day. When the Aryans left their Divine abode, they noted a change in the length of the Divine day. Mantras in Tai. Br., Sat. Br., Ait.Br., and other works on sacrificial system show that the days in a Divine half were 173 days and 147 days, and also that the number of Ahoratras (common days) grew from 7th month to 12 as the Sages came down to Southern latitudes. A corresponding change in the concept of the length of a Prajapati's Samvatsara is consequently visible in the Mantras. In the last stage Prajapati<sup>35</sup> was identified with Sacrifice and the year. The alterations have been shown below with supporting passages from Vedic works.

Stage I	A Samvatsara	15 days and then 14 days.
Stage II	One year	A Divine Samvatsara of 180 common days. + A Prajapati's Samvatsara 180 common days.
Stage III	One year	A Divine Samvatsara with 173 <sup>4</sup> days (120 + 53 or 117 + 56). + A Prajapati's Samvatsara or 192 days (12 × 16) <sup>47</sup>
Stage IV	One year	A Divine Samvatsara of 147 <sup>48</sup> days + 25 days + 1 and a Prajapati's Samvatsara of 192 days.
Stage V	One year	A Prajapati's Samvatsara of (360 + 1) <sup>49</sup> days. Three such years to be followed by one year of (360 + 21) <sup>50</sup> days.

35 (1) वज्र प्रजापति (ii) सव्यसृष्टे वज्र (iii) सहवता वजा हव्यसृष्टे वजापति (iv) यज्ञोपनीते परम पवित्रे प्रजापतेर्दत्तं तद्वज्रं पुनस्तत् (born with Prajapati to the East.)

36 संवत्सराय समग्रं वेदितव्यम् । एतं पुनस्तत् विन्दुवतोऽनिराजं तद्वज्रं एव उपविष्टात् पचाकृतं पुनस्तत् विन्दुवतो अग्निष्टिमात् सपदिता वा पचाकृतं उपविष्टात् विन्दुवतोऽनिराजं पुनस्तत् विन्दुवतोऽनिराजं अहनि उपवति ॥ अथ वे अग्निष्टिमात् पदं पचाकृतं पुनस्तत् सपदिता एव पुनस्तत् । शत. भा. १२.२.५

37. एव सवत्सरं प्रजापतेः योदशमस्तु । तस्य एवमेव एव पचदशमस्तु । ध्रुवोऽस्य योदशी ऋताः स एतं निरिष्टापूर्णे अवचक्षिष्यते । सोऽम्बरास्तोऽर्धं पत्न्या योदश स्थिता कलया ततः पातजायते ॥ बृ. कार. १.५.१४

38 "सप्तमस्तु परिपद्य वि सप्त सप्तमं वृद्धं" उच्यते

39 "सप्तमस्तु वे प्रजापतिरिति तस्य वा वत्स्य प्रजापते सप्त च दशानि विंशतिर्योदशानि" .

शत. भा. १.०.४-५

तस्य निति च दशानि पञ्चमं भोविष्य तद्वति सवत्सराय एवमेव - तै. स. ३.५.१

१०. ब्रह्मणा वे देवाः । वीक्षी रिपमेव (एक २ & १) A detailed list of sacrifices spread over 381 days has been given on the next page.

We quote below the following passages for stages II, III, IV. These are given in the footnote.

The term Samvatsar now came to be known as one year.\* It was subdivided into 12 parts called a (मास) (Month) and each month into 30 parts called a day (दिन) A month was divided into two halves called the (अर्धमास) Hence, there used to be 24 half months in a year. (cf चतुर्विंशति अर्धमासाः सवत्सरः यद्वा एतस्मिन् सवत्सरेऽधिप्राजायत).

The same analogy was carried to the division of a common day into 24 Horas (होरा) or hours

### A NOTE ON YEARLY SACRIFICES

They used to perform yearly sacrifices in a number of ways. The length of a solar year being 365½ days and that of a common year being only 360 days, it seems, they used to perform a 360 day sacrifice for three years and a 381-day sacrifice in a leap year. The yearly sacrifice of whatever duration was to be so arranged that the symmetry of the year‡ would be maintained. The Vishuvan or Equinoctial sacrifice was always to occupy the central place, and a 21-day sacrifice (एकविंश यज्ञ) was to take the central place. The sacrifices covering a period of 10 days were to be dropped out from the list of sacrifices recommended for a 381 day sacrifice in the case of a common year. The yearly sacrifice could be performed even in three instalments each of four months duration, these were called ("चतुर्मास्य यज्ञा") These lists are given by the Shatapatha Brahmana in Kanda 12, Chap 1, Brahmanas 2 and 4. The order of sacrifices given in the following list will show how they were arranged symmetrically

\* The Amarakosha gives the following Table of Time units in use in his time —

18 Nimesh = 1 Kashtha	15 Ahoratra = 1 Paksha
30 Kashtha = 1 Kala	2 Paksha = 1 Masa
30 Kala = 1 Kshana	2 Masa = 1 Ritu
12 Kshana = 1 Muhurta	3 Ritu = 1 Ayana
30 Muhurta = 1 Ahoratra	2 Ayana = 1 Vatsara

First Half (पूर्वपक्षः)	Latter Half (अपरपक्षः)
10 days : प्रायणीय + ऋय + आतिथ्य 1 1 1 + प्रायण्य + उपमद + उपवसय 3 3 1	10 days : दशरात्रिक + छन्दोमाः 1 3 + षष्ठ्य पद्धः 6
20 days : प्रायणीय अतिरात्र + चतुर्विंशः 13 1 षष्ठ्य पद्ध 6	20 days : उदयनीय अतिरात्र + महाप्रतं 13 1 दशरात्र पद्धः 6
150 days : 25 Six-day sacrifices called षडह's	150 days : 25 six-day sacrifices of 6 days
10 days : गोष्टोम (षष्ठ्य) + अभिजित् 6 1 + स्वरसामानः 3	10 days : आयुष्टोम पद्धः + विश्वजित् 6 1 + स्वरसामानः 3
190 days	190 days

\* cf. "सप्तत्वारस्य समता वेदितव्या"

④ See Trisuparna: "ये ऽ होरात्रे दर्शपूर्णमासी...चातुर्मास्यानि ये च ऋतव"



## SECTION IV

### RISE OF STARS IN THE EAST AND THEIR DATES

The following Astronomical method has helped us in calculating the approximate century year of the rise of each star in the East. In this connection, it should be remembered that we get two dates of such rise, these being separated by about 13000 years

Let  $\lambda$  = Star's longitude in the year of  
its easterly rise

$L$  = Star's longitude in 1960 A D

$\beta$  = Star's latitude

$\epsilon$  = Obliquity of the ecliptic =  $23^{\circ} 27'$

Find  $\lambda$ , from the formula  $\tan \beta = \sin \lambda \tan \epsilon$

Then find the approximate year of the star's easterly rise by the formula,

$$\text{Year} = (L + \lambda) \times 72$$

\* It will be interesting to note that the rises of Bharani and Krittika took place earlier than those of Rohini and Mrigashirsha, because the declinations of the former are + (positive) while those of the latter are - (negative). The same reason can be given for the pair Hasta and Uttara

The rule followed by the early Vedic sages in commencing a year, a sacrifice and a nakshatra system was always the same and they appear to have followed the age-old tradition of changing the priority claim (प्राप्त्य) of all the three after a period of every 800 to 1000 years, which was popularly known as the Divine Yuga (दैविक युग). The rule was -

"Adopt that Nakshatra (star) as the first Nakshatra which rose exactly in the East."

When the sun would rise on an Equinoctial day along with such an East-rising star, that day was to be the 1st day of the

TABLE

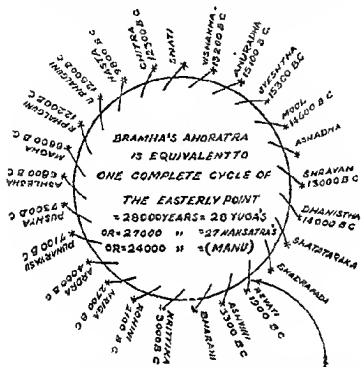
No	Star	Year	No	Star	Year	No	Star	Year
1	Ashvini	1900	10	Magha	8800	19	Mool	14601
2	Bharani	3300	11	P Phalguni	12200	20	P Ashadha	
3	Krittika	3600	12	U Phalgun	12800	21	U Ashadha	
4	Revati	2100	13	Hasta	9300	22	Shravana	13000
5	Mriga	2700	14	Chitra	12300	23	Dhanistha	2000
6	Ardra	4000	15	Swati		24		14000
7	Punarvasu	7100	16	Vishakha	13200	25		3000
8	Pushya	7300	17	Anuradha	15100	26		
9	Ashleha	6800	18	Jyeshtha	15300	27		

year and also of the yearly sacrifice. We find definite references of either of the following four events

- 1 Rising of a star in the East.
- 2 Re-distribution of the stars in the two halves of the sky (viz the देवभाग and अशुभभाग)
- 3 Consecration of fire on a particular nakshatra
- 4 Naming the Deity for the first Nakshatra, and it was invariably the Sun

References for any one of the above four should be sufficient to believe that a change in the nakshatra and sacrificial order had taken place. We can trace such changes right from Shravana to Revati which denotes a period of 13000 years. The Vedic works have given lists of stars and those of their governing Deities and this is a sufficient proof to show that the Sages have recorded the alterations in the sacrificial order for a period of at least 13000 years. A reference from MB shows that God Brahma had first started the time cycle from the star Dhanishtha (cf धनिष्ठादस्तस्य कार्ये ब्रह्मणः परिकल्पितं ।) Records show that all previous stars had their turn of being an Eastern star

## MARCH OF TIME OR ब्रह्मी अक्षः



### THE CELESTIAL EQUATOR OR HORIZON

1. The celestial equator passed through each nakshatra in turn, which rises exactly in the East.
2. The Sun's conjunction with an Easterly rising nakshatra determined the East in each age (yuga).
3. The East was, therefore, a variable direction.

#### 1. SHRAVANA (श्रवण)

( Vishnu was the Deity )

Before commencing any religious rite, we chant the following मन्त्र every day: "ममवतः विष्णोः आज्ञया प्रवर्तमानस्य आद्यश्रवण. पार्थे विष्णुपदे धीयेतवाराहकल्पे वैवस्वतमन्वतरे—"

All words in this Mantra are very significant. It reminds us of our position in the infinite line of time. It shows that a fresh calculation started in the period of वैवस्वत Manu and in the

broad Kalpa period of श्वेतराष्ट्र The second half of Brahma's day had commenced The system started on विष्णुर्द ( Vishnu's feet or the star of ध्रुव ) This system was introduced *under the orders of God Vishnu*. We quote below three references to prove that *Shravana was observed to be an Eastern star* and that a priority was given to it by the Vedic Rishis .

( 1 ) The शुक्लसूत्र gives the following verse :

कृत्स्नः ध्रुवः पुन्यं चित्रास्वात्योर्वेदतरम् ।  
एतद् प्राची दिगोत्तरं युष्मानोदिते पुरा ॥

The East has been determined by the the rise of the four stars of which ध्रुव is one This is said to be the " Age-old tradition "

( 2 ) cf " ध्रुवादीनि दक्षानि कृतव जिशितुदय "—M B.

The ध्रुव formed the the first star of the Nakshatra cycle.

( 3 ) " प्रातर्ध्रुवपूर्वाणि नक्षत्राणि चक्र स "

" Vishwamitra is said to have introduced new system of time units by carrying ध्रुव to the East. "

The system of time units ( whatever it may have been ) and referred to in the above mantra is said to have been introduced on विष्णुर्द ( 1 e. ध्रुव star ) and under the orders of God Vishnu. The ध्रुव may have attained an " almost Easterly " position in the year 13000 B C

## 2. CHITRA ( चित्रा )

A passage from Tai Brah describing how the Asuras named Kala Kanj performed sacrifices on चित्रा ( under the advice of God Indra ) and attained the Divine part ( स्वर्ग ) Two of the Asuras flew to heaven and " became a pair of Divine Dogs " — ( " उदयतत, तीदिव्यो भ्रानावभवताम् ) Chitra is said to have been an Eastern star according to the above-quoted verse Even the following lines from Vedic literature speak of the importance of the star —

( 1 ) ' स्वस्ति न इन्द्रा वृद्धश्रवा । स्वस्ति न पूषा निधवेता ।

( 2 ) " याचिनीवती सूयस्य योषा चित्रान्वयव ईद्रे वसूता "

( 3 ) ' . चित्रा नक्षत्रं भवति '

## 3. PHALGUNI फाल्गुनी ( पूर्वा and उत्तरा )

Both the stars had their turn of being the first nakshatra

in starting a Samvatsara and sacrifice. We quote below some references in support of our statement :

(1) "सुरा वा एतन्नक्षत्राणां यत् फल्गुनी "

Here सुरा means the " first. "

(2) " य कामयेत दानकृत्वा मे प्रजासुरेति स पूर्वो फल्गुन्यो अभि  
आदधौत ॥ अयेन्यो वा एतन्नक्षत्रं यत् फल्गुनी "—तै मा १-३

" Aryama was the Sun God governing the Purva Phalguni , one who desires to get the fame of being called a ' दानी ' a (charitable) should consecrate on the P. Phalguni "

(3) न पूर्वो फल्गुन्यो अभिमादधौत ॥ एष वै जघन्या रात्रिं सक्तरस्य  
यत् पूर्वं फल्गुनी ॥ उत्तरस्यो आदधौत ॥ एष वै प्रथमा रात्रिं सेरत्तरस्य ॥  
मुलेन एव सक्तरस्याग्निमाधाय वसीयान् भवति ॥ य कामयेत  
भगो स्यामिति ॥ स उत्तरस्यो फल्गुन्यो अभिमादधौत ॥ तै मा १-३

#### 4. MAGHA ( मघा )

A line from Rik Sam ( 4 5 56 ) read along with two others quoted under ' चित्रा ' above makes us suspect that Magha was once in prominence and that गुरु ( the Sun God ) was the governing Dety The line ' गुरुो ह वा अस्य गुरुमधिनी । तद्वा एष एव गुरु य एष तपति—' and the position of गुरु just before that of बृहस्पति in the following list of names of Sun God support our suspicion

" बृहस्पति इराति आदित्येति शुक्रमि बृहस्पत्येति चराति "

The line runs thus—उपो मघेन्य वङ्-सूद्रे वाषां पुरा अरम्भ्या  
काजिनीवर्ती क्लृप्त सविता भगो वङ्गो मित्रो अर्यमा ॥ इदो नो रात्रिगमत ॥

#### 5. PUSHYA ( पुष्य )

The following lines from the Rik Sam and the Tai Br are sufficient to prove that पुष्य had once become the first star and that the Sun God received the name of बृहस्पति in that Age. It is to be noted that Brihaspati like Shukra, was the sacrificial Dety in the form of the Sun and in later years one of the planets in the system received the name

(1) बृहस्पति प्रथम जायमान सिष्य नक्षत्रं अभितरन्—तै मा ३ १ १

(2) बृहस्पति प्रथम जायमान मङ्गे ज्योतिष परमेष्ठोमन्-ह स ३-८ १

We quote below a number of lines from the Rik Sam which show beyond doubt that बृहस्पति was a synonym of the Sun God

Rik. Sam. (8 8.1 29)

- (i) प्र नो यच्छत्वमा प्रभग प्रवृहस्पति प्रदेवा
- (ii) आदित्यान् विष्णु सूर्यं ब्रह्माणं च वृहस्पतिं
- (iii) इदमाय वृहस्पतिं सु ह वे ह हवामहे
- (iv) अर्यमण वृहस्पतिं इन्द्र विष्णु सवितारं च वाजिनम्

The Tai Br quotes in (1 25) the following according to which all of them are synonyms of the Sun God

वत्ससि रुद्रासि अदित्यसि आदित्यासि शुक्रासि वृहस्पत्यासि चरासि त्वा सुम्नेरष्वतु ।

Sage Vamadeva praises the Sun God in the following way  
इदंवृहस्पती देवते ॥ " अयं वा परिमिच्यते सोम इदंवृहस्पती आत्मदाय पीतये ॥ अस्मे  
इदा वृहस्पतिं रयिं भत दत्तमिनि ॥ अथान्न सहसिणः "

According to Tai Br the वृहस्पति wanted to obtain the most exalted position ( or highest honour ) -

वृहस्पतिर्वा अक्षमयत । प्रहवर्चसां स्वामिति ।

## 6 PUNARVASU ( पुनर्वसु )

The following memorable lines from the Tai Br clearly suggest that the Prajapatis had ordered the discontinuance of the commencing of the sacrifice on पुष्य and to start it on पुनर्वसु

" देवा वै भद्रा सुतोमिमाधिरसग ॥ तेषामनादितोऽगिरासीत् ॥

अर्यभ्यो वाम वस्पाक्रमत् । ते पुनर्वसोरुदधत् । ततो वैतान् वाम वसुष्पावतत  
य पुरा भद्रं सन्त पापीयान् स्यात् । स पुनर्वसोरग्निमादधीत् । पुनरेवैन वाम  
वस्पावर्चते । भद्रो भवति । " तै मा १-१-२

## 7. KRITTIKA ( कृत्तिक B. C. )

We do not get a more definite statement about any other star than the कृत्तिक It was regarded as the first star of the Divine half because it rose exactly in the East "

\* सर्वं ह वै नक्षत्राणि प्राच्यै दिशश्चरते कृत्तिकर न च्यवते ॥ तस्मात्  
कृत्तिकार्षमिमादधीत् " शत मा

Another verse mentions the first and last stars of each of the two halves of the zodiac —

कृत्तिक प्रथम दिशाखे उत्तम तदग्निं दक्षनक्षत्राणि

अनूराधा प्रथम अक्षमरणीयत्तम तानि दक्षनक्षत्राणि — शत मा \*

41 Readers are requested to note that this is actually the fact. The retrograde motion of the Equinoxes has definitely the effect of creating an impression that the Earth was turning in an Easterly direction which was a reverse to the one usually seen

वाम means " Retrograde. Can १३ mean the Earth ~ ?

## 8. ROHINI ( रोहिणी ) ( in the East )

The discussion on page 22 alone is quite enough to show that the Prajapati redistributed the stars among the *gurus* and *ashvins* who accepted the division. The following lines from a story about Rohini sisters and given by the Maha Bharata in the वनपर्व ( ch 339 ) show that in some Age the Rohini had disappeared from sight ( नक्षत्र गमनात् च्युत ) and from the year 2100 B. C. it crossed the Equator and entered the Divine half —

अभिजित् स्पर्धमाना तु रोहिण्या\* कन्यसी स्वता  
इच्छन्ती ज्येष्ठता देवि तपस्तप्तु धनं गता ॥ ८ ॥  
तत्र मृदोर्ध्वमि भद्र ते नक्षत्र गमनात् च्युत  
काल त्विम पर स्रष्ट द्रव्यणा सह चिंतय ॥ ९ ॥  
धनिष्ठादिस्तदा काले द्रव्यणा परिवर्त्यित  
रोहिणी ह्यभवत्\* पूर्वं एव सख्या समाभवत् ॥ १० ॥  
एवमुक्ते तु शकेष्व कृत्स्नरात्रिदिव गता  
नक्षत्र सप्तशतीषां भाति तत् बहिर्देवत ॥ ११ ॥

The words धनिष्ठादि etc. in the above verse refer to the system which was initially started by ब्रह्मा from the star धनिष्ठा and was later on replaced by विष्णु and a new system introduced—  
“ विष्णोराज्ञया प्रवर्तमानस्य ”

We can thus see that all the stars right from Dhanistha to Rohini had their turn in becoming an Eastern star and having the honour of starting the sacrifice ( यज्ञ ) and the year ( सवत्सर ) in different Ages

\* Scholars of Astronomy can easily know that Rohini's rise in the East must have occurred after that of the Kritika.

## SECTION V

### VEDIC DEITIES & NAKSHATRAS

#### 1. Vedic Deities

In our opinion, in the earliest Vedic Age, the Deities and Gods देवा as they were called, were very few in number. The later Aryans used to call them as प्रधानदेवता (Principal Deities). The first and the foremost was the पुष्य or परमेष्ठि or Almighty, in whose honour we chant the famous पुष्यसूक्त every day. He was later on believed to have delegated his triple functions to three subordinate Deities called the त्रिमूर्ति (Trinity). They were :

1. *The God of Creation* or धाता, ब्रह्मा, स्वयं, etc.
2. *The God of Protection* or विष्णु, नारायण. and so on.
3. *The God of Destruction* or ईश, ईशान, महेश etc.

#### PRINCIPAL GODS & DEITIES IN THE VEDIC AGE

Even today while following the Vedic and Post-Vedic tradition, we worship Gods (देवा) and Deities (देवता) and offer oblations to them. They are addressed as "Principal Deities", (cf. प्रधानदेवता) They are about 33 in number. It is our feeling that in the early period of the Vedic Age, the Gods were very few and then Deities were limited in number. These were symbolised and represented by Stars, Planets or Natural Elements. The primitive man had only one God - The Almighty, known as the परमेष्ठि, परमात्मन्, ब्रह्मन्, and so on. He was symbolised by the letter "OM" (ॐ). As time rolled on the sages evolved three conceptions about the "omnipotent and the omniscient" (the all-pervading Great Spirit) or the "अज" (the not-born). He came to be known as the Trinity (त्रिमूर्ति) comprising the three main Gods ब्रह्मा (God of Creation), विष्णु (God of Life) and महेश (God of Destruction). Then came the turn of Five Elements to be known as Gods. They were

12. cf (i) अग्ने, वायु, सूर्य (ii) अश्वि, अरिष्ट, अश्वि, अरिष्ट (iii) अश्वि, अरिष्ट, अश्वि, अरिष्ट



- |   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | द्युः दिवं, स्वर्गं | meaning Heaven, represented by the sky. |
| 2 | अतरिक्ष             | Space.                                  |
| 3 | पृथिवी              | Earth                                   |
| 4 | वायु or मरुत्       | Wind                                    |
| 5 | आप                  | Water                                   |

Later on, we come across hymns which show that the sages evolved another class of Gods to be known as देवता or Deities. The first three " of them were the Agni ( अग्नि ) ( Fire ), Vayu ( वायु ) or Wind and Surya or Savita ( सविता ), the Sun. Afterwards the number appears to have been increased to seven. "

It is our belief that Agni occupied the first position ( मुख ) in the list of Deities. This word has now come to mean as "The mouth". But it is our belief that the Vedic Rishis used the word 'मुख' definitely to denote "the first place." The following lines from the Vedic literature will go to support our view

- 1 मुख वा एतत् ऋतूना यत् वसत ( It is the Vasant which is the first of the seasons. )
- 2 मुख वा एतत् सवत्सरस्य बत् फल्गुनी ( It is the Phalguni Purnima which denoted the first night of the year )
- 3 मुख वा एतत् नक्षत्राणा यत् कृत्तिका ( It is the "Krittikas" which occupy the first place in the list of stars )
- 4 अग्निर्वै देवाना मुख, also  
अग्निमुखा वै देवा ( Agni is the first of Gods. )  
[ cf अग्निं देवानामग्रमो विष्णु परम तदन्तरेण सर्वा अन्य देवता ]
- 5 देवाना उर्वशीमुखा ' ( The Divine damsels headed by Urvashi )

The following Mantra which we chant on the occasion of wearing the ' holy thread ' shows that the name Agni comes just after the Omkar ( ॐ ) and before the list of 8 other Deities

ओंकारे प्रथमतः न्यसामि अग्निं द्वितीयतः न्यसामि नागास्तृतीयतः न्यसामि सोम चतुर्थतः न्यसामि

The following line अग्निं पूर्वमि ऋषिभि इच्छो clearly shows that the Earlier Rishis had selected Agni as the first Deity. He was

not the "messenger" or "a carrier of oblations" in that Age. He was to be worshipped and placed in the "East." "

We next come to an Age when the Rishis appear to have evolved ten Deities to control the ten directions as has been shown in the next table. The Brahma occupied the zenith permanently, the Ananta (The Infinite), the Nadir, and the 4 nocturnal Deities took the 4 positions of the bisectors of Cardinal angles (S E, S W, etc.) These directions were called the अवतारदिशा or उपदिशा (the Auxiliary or Subsidiary directions). During the last stage of the Vedic Age, we find the Deities being represented by eight planets which are called the दिग्गजा or दिग्गजा (Elephants) guarding the directions. These lists are regarded as traditionally correct. These have helped us in verifying as to why a particular planet could have been allotted a particular sign.

Eight Directions		Controlling Deities	Elephants
1	Praachi (East)	Indra	Sun
2	Agneya (S E)	Agni	Venus
3	Awachi (South)	Yama	Mars
4	Nairhrutya (S W)	Nirhruti	Rahu
5	Prateechi (West)	Varuna	Saturn
6	Vayavya (N W)	Vayu	Moon
7	Udichi (North)	Kubera	Mercury
8	Ishanya (N E)	Ishana	Jupiter

It will be interesting to note that the names of the four cardinal directions indicate the Sun's position in the sky, viz that in front (प्राची), lowest (अवची), at the back (प्रतीची) and highest (उदीची) and those of the subsidiary directions are 'derived epithets' from the names of the Deities) E. g अग्नेया from अग्नि, वायव्या 'from वायु' and so on

### THE SUN

Gods Vishnu and Indra were represented by the Sun from the earliest Vedic Age. As time went on, the Moon also came to be

given an equal importance. One was the creator of the day and the other of seasons<sup>46</sup>. He appears to have received different names like सविता, आदित्य, पूषा, शुक्र, बृहस्पति, चंद्र, as Ages passed by. Each time a fresh star began to make its appearance exactly in the East, a change in the sacrificial system used to be made, and the Sun God who commenced the year received a fresh name. He was known as वरुण, वसु etc according to his different positions near an easterly rising star. The Taitareya, the Aitareya and the Shatapatha Brahmana give lists of Nakshatras with their Deities, 16 of which are definitely names of the Sun God.

The following list gives the names of the Sun God along with the Nakshatra which he used to govern in a particular Age.

No	Name	Star	No	Name	Star
1	वरुण or इन्द्र	सतगिषक	9	अर्धमा	पूर्व फाल्गुनी
2	वसु	श्रविष्ठा	10	बृहस्पति	तिष्य
3	विष्णु	श्रोणा	11	अदिति	पुनर्वसु
4	मरुत	अभिजित्	12	इन्द्र	आर्द्रा
5	मित्र	अनुराधा	13	सोम	इन्द्रा
6	त्वष्टा	चित्रा	14	प्रजापति	रोहिणी
7.	सविता	इस्त	15	अग्नि	कृत्तिका
8	भग	उ फाल्गुनी	16	पूषा	रेवती

### Thirty Three (kinds of) Deities

The foregoing discussion is just an attempt to show how there is no unanimity of opinion about the number of Vedic Deities. We, in the present Age, speak of "33 crores of deities". This is something unbelievable. The word "Koti" should be rendered as 'kinds of'. If the lists of deities given by various Vedic scriptures be seen, we find that while the Krishna Yajurveda gives more than 100 names of deities, The Rigveda gives more than 200 and Atharva Veda gives more than 500. YASKA and SAYANA have attempted to classify these deities as (1) those residing on Earth, (2) those occupying the intermediate space, (3) and those residing in the Sky.

46 \* विराजन्ते ये धामाः शक्रो ब्रह्मणे विदुषां जायते इति ।

The *Āitareya Brahman* (28) gives lists of 33 deities in two groups, viz those who drank the Soma juice (सोमपा) and those others who do not (असोमपा) as given below —

The 'Somapa' deities		The 'Asomapa' deities	
Adityas	12	Prayaḥ	11
Rudras	11	Anuḥ	11
Vasus	8	Upaḥ	11
Prajapati	1		
Vashatkara	1		
	33		33

This distinction, to our mind, is due to the two different systems of sacrifices in vogue, viz those in honour of Soma or Moon and those others performed in honour of the Sun.

We attempt to show the following probable classification of deities in vogue in modern Age —

Class	Name of the class	Deities
1	Principal deities (प्रधानदेवता)	e. g. इन्द्र, अग्नि, वायु
2	Secondary deities (कनिष्ठदेवता)	ऋतु, त्वष्टा, अन्न etc
3	Planetary deities (ग्रहदेवता)	शुक्र, बुध, शनि, राशि
4	Starry deities (नक्षत्रदेवता)	Lords of 28 asterions
5	Natural deities (निसर्गदेवता)	सु, पृथिवी, पर्वत्य, etc.
6	Feminine „ (स्त्रीदेवता)	उषा, सरस्वती, वाक्, etc.
7	Group „ (समूहदेवता or गणदेवता)	आदित्य, रुद्र, वसु etc.
8	Dual „ (युग्मदेवता)	इन्द्राग्नि, मित्रावरुणौ, अश्विन, यावत् पृथिवी, etc.
9	Directional (दिक्पाल)	Lords of 8 directions
10	Sacrificial (यज्ञदेवता)	
11	Regional „ (स्थलदेवता)	
12	Water (जलदेवता)	
13	Forest (वनदेवता)	
14	Herbs (वनस्पतिदेवता)	विष्णु, बट, तुलसी
15	Beasts (पशुदेवता)	Cow, Bullock etc
16	Birds (क्षेत्र-चर)	महर्षि, कश्यप, etc.
17	Insects (मृ-चर)	नाग, शैवरा

Class	Name of the class	Deities
18	Village „ (ग्रामदेवता)	Of one's own village
19	Locality „ (स्थानदेवता)	„ one's own locality
20	House „ (वास्तुदेवता)	„ one's own residential
21	Feelings represented by deities (भावदेवता)	place धृष्टा, मेधा, प्रज्ञा, धारणा
22	Merits „ (गुणदेवता)	वीर्य, सौंदर्य, etc
23	Sages „ (ऋषिदेवता)	Seven famous sages
24	Manes „ (पितर)	Forefathers
25	Celebration „ (इष्टदेवता)	} The particular deity under consideration
26	Family „ (कुलदेवता)	
27	Action „ (कर्मदेवता)	

Six more classes of deities could be added to make the number 33

The following lists of Deities which occur in Vedic lines appear to be those of a later origin.—

(1) आसुर, अग्नि, नागा, साम, पितृ, प्रजापति, वायु, सूर्य & विन्धेदेवा

(ii) ब्रह्मा, विष्णु, रुद्र, इन्द्र, अग्नि, वायु, सूर्य & चन्द्रमा

(iii) इन्द्र, अग्नि, यम, निर्ऋति, वरुण, वायु, कुक्षर, ईशान, वायन् & अनन्त

Deities like अश्विनी, definitely belong to a later Age of 4,000 B C The dual deities like मित्रावरुणौ, अश्विन्यामरुत इत्यादि etc. appear to have been the pairs of deities controlling the same one particular direction, one of them during the Divine day of six months and the other during the night

## II

### VEDIC NAKSHATRAS

( Their names and controlling Deities and Clusters of Stars)

We are convinced that the Vedic nakshatras were not exactly the same clusters of stars, as are known to us today. Even the names of nakshatras are changed. It appears that the Vedic Rishis named the stars mostly according to their shapes, resembling the parts of a human body or those of beasts like the deer ( antelope ), the ox, the goat and so on, e.g. the nakshatra Hastā ( हस्त ) appears to have received this name because of the cluster resembling the fingertips of a palm ( हस्त )

The head of an antelope (मृगशीर्ष), the बाहु (or two arms) and so on. It has been attempted to find out a probable explanation as to why a particular star may have been so named. In the following list the Vedic nakshatras have been given in a bold type and the stars comprising them have been mentioned in accordance with the nomenclature used by the Modern Star Atlas. The modern nakshatra names have been given in a bracket. The name of each Nakshatra Deity has been given in the last column. The Vedic works differ amongst themselves regarding the number of stars in a cluster and regarding the gender in which each nakshatra name is used. For instance the अथर्वसंहिता mentions कृत्तिका in the singular, मृगशिर and पुष्य in the masc sing, स्वाति and अश्लेषा are used in a short vowel form, ध्रुव in place of ध्रुवा and भरणी (plural) in place of भरणी (a feminine singular form).

S No	Nakshatras		The Deity
1	अश्वयुजौ (अश्विनी) α β γ ARIES.	The name appears to have been given because of their resemblance with a pair of horses yoked to the Sun's chariot and driven by the Charioteer	नासती
2	भरणी, अपभरणी, भरणी 35 39 and 41 Aries		यम
3	बहुला कृत्तिका	(δ 1 and 63 Aries) So called because of their Scythe-like shape. It means a cutting machine.	अग्नि
4	रोहिणी	It was so named because it is रोहित or red. It was also so called because, after a lapse of about 13 000 years since it was recorded to have disappeared <sup>47</sup> from sight it was again seen gradually rising in the heaven. (Tauri or Aldeberan) It is one of the five stars forming a cart-like cluster popularly known	प्रजसति

47 See M. B. Varaparva Ch. 23 अथर्ववेद १५५५५५ ६ verses 8 and 9 See page 40 for these Verses

S No	Nakshatras	The Deity
	as रेहिनी शब्द, which was "pierced through" by the Saturn and Mars about 6,000 years ago. In some Age, it was also called a 'red horse' (लोहिताश्व)	
5	इन्वरा A cluster of stars above the head of the Orion	सोम
	मृगशिरा Orion. It is situated at the head of an antelope-shaped cluster.	सोम
6	बाह्व (1 Gemini) The two arm-shaped cluster in the GEMINI group	रुद्र
	आद्रा (1 Gemini) It means either 'wet or moist' because of its position in the Milky way (आकाशमणि) or it may mean "one having a relation to रुद्र"	
7	पुनर्वसु So named because it again attained the exalted position of the star भरणी which was controlled by बह्व. People also believed that they brought wealth to a sacrificer again, if he discards sacrificing on the star. It consists of two stars, Castor and Pollux	अदिति
8	सिंह It is yet to be confirmed if this was the same as the पुष्य (♋ - Cancer) of today (पुष्य)	बृहस्पति
9	आश्लेषा It must have been a cluster of stars (आश्लेषा) resembling a snake "सर्प" There are a number of such stars which are named "SERPENS" even today in the star map	सर्व
10	अश्लेषा <sup>15</sup> (मेष) It is a cluster of 6 stars, the most prominent of them being the α - LEO NIS	शिव
11	अश्लेषा A group of two pairs of stars popularly	
12	फल्गुनी known as the पूषा and उत्तरा	

48 (1) अश्लेषा इत्येतत् मेषः

(11) एतत् वा रुद्र नक्षत्रं एतत् फल्गुनीयोपसर्गप्रतिपदशब्दोक्तं  
अश्लेषायेति नामितत्वात्

S No	Nakshatras		The Deity
13	हस्त	The palm like cluster (See the map )	शक्रा
14	चित्रा	(SPICA)	भग
15	निष्ठरा	$\lambda$ VIRGO	सावता
	स्वाती	ARCTURUS - It is bright like a pearl $\alpha$ BOOTES	इन्द्र त्वष्टा
16	विशाखा $\alpha$	Libra (a single star)	वायु
	( निश्रव्ये )	(Dual form) - Two branches of starry	इन्द्राग्नि
	राधा )	tree appear to pass through them. They were ( $\alpha$ & B )	
	निश्रवा (Plural)	( $\alpha$ $\beta$ and $\gamma$ )	
17	अनुराधा	Plural	
	(अनुराधा)	meaning one coming after (राधा)	मित्र
18	रेवती	Meaning the elder of the Rohini	इन्द्र
	(रेवती)	sisters This is also very red like the Aldebertan	
19	विट्	(two stars-perhaps E & $\delta$ ) The mean- ing of the word is joined together	पितृ
	मूल्याईनी	$\lambda$ SCORPII - Meaning is clear	निन्दु
	मूल	$\lambda$ SCORPII It means the root of the starry tree extending to the SPICA and ARCTURUS on one hand and to $\alpha$ DELPHINI on the other	प्रजापति
20 } 21 }	आषाढ	Group of 2 pairs of stars which are well known today	वभदेवा
22	श्रवणा	CORONA Meaning a maimed or dis- abled part of the body (cf श्रवणा पक्षी) ( $\alpha$ $\delta$ $\epsilon$ $\zeta$ , and $\eta$ )	वज्र
	( श्रवणा )	the modern Alpha ALTAIR	
23	धनिष्ठा	An earlike cluster in the Aqualine group ( $\alpha$ $\theta$ $\gamma$ $\delta$ $\epsilon$ and $\eta$ )	वसु
	घनश्रु	The Delphin group	इन्द्र or
24	पुष्य	A cluster of densely situated stars in the Pisces group	वसु
25	शततारा	$\lambda$ Aquari	अनृकपाद
26.	श्रवणा	The name of the deity suggests that it was either like a foot or leg of a ram or was the first quarter of Brah	



S. No.	Naksatras	The Deity
	<p>ma's day (since अत्र means व्रद्धा also)          (भद्रपदा) The name अहिर्बुधि also suggests the          control of the group, by God Shiva          who has a snake round his girdle.          The group is yet to be confirmed.          The meaning of "श्रेष्ठ" is not clear.</p>	अहिर्बुधि
27.	रेवती One bringing wealth	पूषा
28.	अभिजित् Meaning one who controls or con- quers all directions on all sides (VEGA).	व्रद्धा

## SECTION VI

### IDENTIFICATION OF VEDIC DEITIES

In section V, we have attempted to give a list of Principal Vedic Deities and that of Vedic Stars, along with the names of stars according to popular belief. The next problem is to interpret the Vedic passages and hymns in the light of our stand, viz that all the Vedic Deities were represented by stars, clusters, or constellations of stars and planets. The following discussion, which has emerged as a result of further research will justify the correctness of our stand.

The search about the origin of modern names of stars and constellations has revealed that while the constellations are known after their Greek or Latin names, some of the principal stars are known after their Arabic names, whose meanings are unknown to us. Further search is necessary for understanding the meanings of these names and this is likely to bring to light additional support for the correctness of our stand.

It has come to our notice that *most of the modern names are the corrupt forms of the original Sanskrit names of the stars*. These names clearly show that the stars and constellations were named according to the shapes suggested by them to the observers.

#### I

**Principles of Research and of the Identifications of stars.**

In view of the difficulties of identification described above, the following principles have been formulated for our guidance.

1 To accept an English word as correct where it undoubtedly appears to be a corrupt form of an original Sanskrit word, which is likely to convey the meaning of a shape presented to an observer of a particular star, cluster or constellation.

2 If the Star Atlas gives a meaning different from the one found above, in the case of a particular word, to ignore the meaning, considering its meaning to be the idea of an observer in a post Vedic Age.

(Examples CORONA = श्रोणा or कर्णे according to Vedic Sage, although it may have been a 'CROWN' to an observer in a Post Vedic Age.

COMA = सोम and not "hair"

ARA = अरा (asaw) and not an 'altar'

SCUTUM is चूतम् (a mango) and not a "shield"

3 Since, an error of transcription is likely to have occurred, to try all possible changes in the letters of English alphabet e. g

- (i) The letter C may be an S, Sh, or K
- (ii) " H " H or E (The capital Greek letter of Eta)
- (iii) " Y " Y or N (a mistaken Greek letter of Nu)
- (iv) , G " G, J or N (A mistake for 'Gamma')
- (v) , F " F or G
- (vi) " P " P or R ( " 'Rho')

[ Examples - HYADES = ह्यादि , but HYDRA = ह्र  
 REGULUS = रज्जुल , but VEGA may have been वीणा  
 CETUS = सेतुस, COMA = सोम, CORONA = श्रोणा  
 = श्रोणा ]

FORAX = मोरक्ष ]

4 If an English word gives a meaning in agreement with the shape required in a particular case, we have to accept that meaning, but we have further, to reserve this as a problem for further research as to how and why this word could have received that meaning

(Examples - SAGITTA = an arrow, SAGITTARIUS = Archer ,

AQUILLA = Eagle, CYGNUS = Swan ,  
 and so on.

5 Every Sanskrit name followed by the words च्चज, बाहन or वेतु, must be the name of a cluster or a constellation of stars presenting to an observer a shape of that name, e g मयूरच्चज, मकरच्चज, हंसबाहन, मीनवेतन

6 To expect the place of every concerning Vedic Deity either exactly at the place indicated by the *वज्र* group or in its vicinity.

7 While finding out a rational explanation for any Vedic passage it must be noted that a constellation may have presented different shapes to different observers, in different Ages and at different places on the Earth, and then to try to find out the time and place for the composition of that particular passage.

8. If two or more shapes on the starry sphere be found to agree with the description of any particular deity, all such constellations must be accepted as their positions at different stages of the Vedic Age.

9 Since Asuras were *पूवदेवा* according to Amarkosh, we should expect to get their positions also in the similar manner and their shifting into or away from the Divine half should be interpreted as the Divine victory over them

We now enumerate some examples of how the same one constellation presented different shapes.

## II

### ONE CONSTELLATION PRESENTING DIFFERENT SHAPES

The following examples will be sufficient to prove our view that the same one particular constellation has presented different shapes to different observers in different Ages and in different countries. Cases of each such variation will be found in the discussions under 'Interpretation of Vedic Mantras'

#### THE GREAT BEAR

The Astronomical name for this constellation is the 'URSA MAJOR'. The present Indian name is the Saptarshis (सप्तर्षि). The word *URSA* clearly admits of a number of versions and fortunately for us we do get supports for our stand in each case

(1) *URSA* = ऋषु (1 e, a Bear). The following lines from Rigveda clearly show that bear the seven-starred constellation was definitely named as the

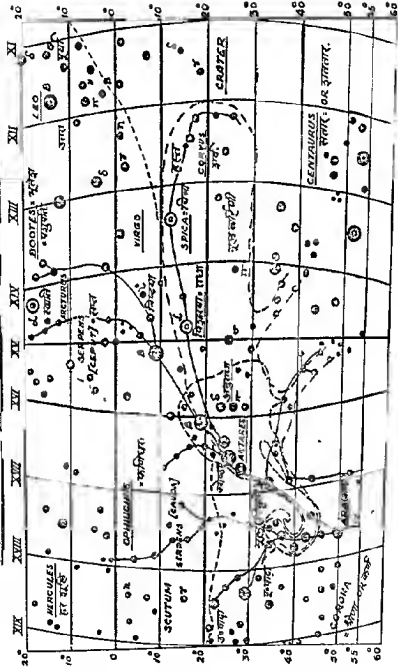
अमी यन्मक्षा निहितास उज्ज्वा शरु ददर्शे कुहुन्दिनेयु

—Rik S 1 24 10.

सप्तर्षीनु हस्त्वै पुरक्षां इत्याचक्षते

Shatapatha, Br, 2 1 2

**MAHADEVA GANAPATI & THE DIVINE TREE**



at  $\lambda$  - Scorpio. The names "Arcturus, Centaurus, Sagittarius, are possible corrupt forms of Sanskrit words अर्कतार, सतार and शीघ्रतार respectively

(2) The Omkar (ॐ) This symbol was suggested to them by this very constellation, when it may have occupied an inverted position. Lines<sup>29</sup> from the भगवद्गीता lend a support to our view, that the दृश्य was symbolised either by the Omkar or by a tree with its root above (ऊर्ध्वमूल) and branches downwards (अधःशाख) extending up to the constellation of Scorpio (cf. अश्वत्थ)

(3) The tail of a Scorpion - The shape is clear enough, and does not require any elucidation

(4) The Peacock :- The whole constellation of हस्त, चित्रा, विशाखा, अनुराधा, ज्येष्ठा, and मूल does give an impression of a peacock. The nakshatra now known as Mool, was formerly called the मूलहिणी (i.e. the tail of a peacock)

(5) The Jar (or कुम्भ or कलश) :- The clusters of अनुराधा, ज्येष्ठा, and मूल may have suggested the shape of a Jar, having, अनुराधा as the mouth, ज्येष्ठा as the neck and मूल as the base. The Deities governing these portions were the विष्णु, रुद्र and ब्रह्मा, respectively

(6) The God गजानन - The figure is sufficient to convince a reader of this suggestion

### THE ALDEBERRAN (Rohini Group)

(1) It has suggested the shape of a horse (अश्व) The Star Map does give the name of 'HYADES' which is none other than the "ह्यादि". The Arabic word "Al-deberran" also means "the Zebra" or a horse. This consists of seven stars, and may have been considered as the सप्तश्व in some Age.

(2) The Cart (सङ्घट्ट) The ancient Hindu Astronomical works speak of the रोहिणीसङ्घट्टेद or "being pierced through" by Saturn and the Mars.

(3) It was taken to be a Conch (or शङ्ख) A clearer explanation of this will be found under the interpretation of the Mantra "मृगशीर्षं चन्द्रोदयम्"

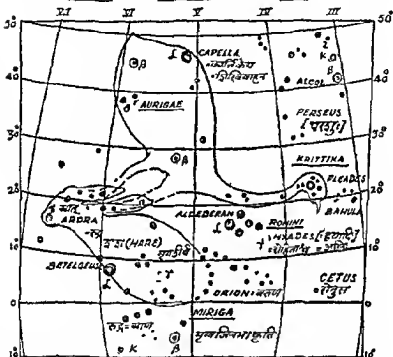
### THE CONSTELLATION OF GEMINI

The following star groups, appearing in two parallel lines, appear to have suggested the following shapes.

(i)  $\lambda, \mu, \nu, 126$  and (ii) Nos. 71, 68, 61, 57 and  $\xi$

(1) The legs of a peacock. (2) The ears of a hare. (3) The horns of an antelope. (4) The arms of God Rudra ( बाहू )

### RUDRA-KARTIKEYA & AGNI



We now proceed to show how the Vedic descriptions of various deities are the descriptions of shapes of constellations and clusters<sup>51</sup> of stars actually observed by our Sages. It is our belief that in the earlier stages, when the whole human race was divided into two groups, the Suras (सुरा) occupying the Northern Hemisphere, and Asuras (i.e. non-Suras) occupying the Southern half, there were two Deities equally honoured by both viz, the महादेव and गजानन.

According to the names of Deities given by Amarkosha, these can be classified into three groups -

51 देवगृहाणि महापानि । य एव देव गृही एव मयि

(1) The 'Federated Gods' or गणदेवता -<sup>2</sup>E.g. Adityas, Vasus Vishvedevas etc.

(2) Those Deities which are represented by a very bright star situated in a constellation whose shape resembles that of a bird or a beast. These are designated as "one whose vehicle (वाहन) or flag (ध्वज) is a particular bird or beast". E.g. हस्तिवाहन, मयूरवाहन, शिखिवाहन, मेघध्वज, मकरध्वज and so on

(3) Those which are represented by a single star -E.g, Vayu (वायु) is represented by स्वाति or निष्ठवा

The positions of these Deities or Gods can be identified with those clusters which show an association with their "Power Goddesses" (शक्ति) who have derived their names directly from those of the Gods E.g. शिव, शर्वाणी, शारदी, from शिव, शर्व, and शक्र respectively, वैष्णवी, ब्रह्मदी, माहेश्वरी, शम्भवी, and so on. Saraswati who is supposed to be riding a peacock can help one in identifying the position of गणपति, the Lyre (वीणा) of शारदा can give a clue to find out the position of ब्रह्मा and so on

### (1)

## MAHADEVA

This deity has received thousands of names during the last 15 000 years, but the Amarkosha gives about 50, many of them are easily seen to be the names of constellations, which are known by those names or their equivalents even today. We have based our conclusions on the nomenclature used by the Norton's Star Atlas. We now attempt to show, how the names of Mahadeo are represented by different constellations.

(1) भूतेश = Bootes. The meaning of the word, as given by the Atlas, is 'the herdsman' which is another name of the deity, viz पशुपाली or पशुमान्

(ii) हर-शक्ति = Hercules. This is the name of that Giant who has supported the Earth. A man of giant like strength is called भैरव in Sanskrit, and this is also a name of God Shiva

(iii) पणिधर = Ophiuchus. Its meaning is given as the 'snake-bearer'

52. आदिपुत्र विष्णुसहस्रनाम तुष्टिमा महादेवनिष्ठः ।  
महादेवनिष्ठत्वात्माह रत्नाम्न गणदेवता ॥



(iv) **गङ्गाधरः** = The Milky Way (or आक्षरगङ्गा) is clearly seen occupying the main position of his body.

(v) **व्योमकेशः** } = **Coma Bernices**. The Atlas gives  
**चन्द्रशेखरः** } 'hair' as the meaning of COMA. To our  
**शशिधरः** } mind it is सोम and BERNICES is पर्णिक. The  
 star Swati is as bright as the Moon. It was taken to be the Moon in the head of God Shiva.

(vi) **त्रिनेत्रः** =  $\delta$ -Antares. The three stars comprising this cluster include the middle one which is red like fire. Hence, God Shiva was named **त्रिनेत्रः** having a "fiery eye" in the centre of his forehead.

(vii) **त्रिपुरातक** = **Triangulum**. It means "terminating in the three cities."

(viii) **नीललोहितः** =  $\alpha$ -Antares. The middle star is red and the other two are bluish in colour.

(ix) **शर्वः** = **Corvus**. This is a corrupt form of शर्व.

(x) **शक्रः** = **Cancer**.

(xi) **करदिकर्णः** = **Capricornus**, just as the word CORONA is the corrupt form of कर्णः or श्रेणा, or both.

(xii) **अर्धवृश्चिः** = **Serpens (Ceput and Cauda)** together, the word CEPUT is the corrupt form of सृष्ट and CAUDA, that of पोद्वा. It means one, having snakes about his girdle.

(xiii) **रुद्रः** or **बाहू** = **Ardra** or  $\alpha$ -Gemini along with two parallel strips of stars, described before.

(xiv) **कृत्तिवासा** = **The Orion**. It means, one wearing the skin of a deer.

(xv) **शुक्रः**<sup>53</sup> = **Sagitta**. Its meaning is given as the arrow. There are four more star-clusters which appear like arrows; any of them could have represented the God MAHADEVA.

(xvi) **स्मरद्धरः** = **मदन** or God of Love, is named as **स्मरः पंचशरः** (five-arrowed) or **पुष्पधन्वा**. The constellation of **SAGITTARUS**, which literally means an archer, formerly represented the **मदन** who shot five arrows,<sup>54</sup> and then represented **महादेव** who destroyed the

53. "नमस्तो रुद्रमन्त्र्य उतीत इति नमः"

54. "अरुविं अशोकं च पूज्य २१ मण्डितं

श्रीलोकेशं च पतेन पंचशरस्य शरधनः"—अथारोहः

former The star group "ALTAIR" (= the 'teer' = arrow) is one arrow and the group "VULPE CULA" which is the corrupt form of 'कुल्लकुल' is another arrow 'SCUTUM' which is the corrupt form of चतुर्म् is the 4th arrow This portion of the sky may have been designated as the द्यु

- (xvii) धन्वी = Sirius (The dog star or the Hunter as it is called)  
 (xviii) खड्गपरशु = Perseus which is clearly a 'broken axe.'  
 (xix) वृषभज = The constellation of TAURUS (वृषभ)  
 (xx) मृद = The constellation of ORION which may have been taken to be a डमरु (Drum)  
 (xxi) श्लोक = The constellation of CANIS MAJOR, which has the brightest star SIRIUS (= श्री) in the 'neck'

(2)

GANAPATI (See Fig on page VI)

The literal meaning of the word is "the Governor of groups" His oldest description is found in the अथर्वशीर्ष which has been composed by the sage गणक According to him\* the crescent with a star (अथन्दुर्लभित तारेण हस्त)\* he<sup>2</sup> is said to be identified with ब्रह्मा, विष्णु रुद्र, शक्ति, सूर्य, and चन्द्र, इन्द्र, and वायु He is said to be 'blown up belied' (लब्धोदर), one having a crescent in his forehead (मालचन्द्र) one having a mouth of an elephant (गजानन) one having fan like ears (शृङ्गेकर्ण) and so on. He is also द्विमातुर् (one having two mothers)

- \* Note.— According to another consideration, because Ganapati also is called मालचन्द्र (i e. one having Moon in his forehead), शृङ्गिकर्ण (the same as सोम-वर्जिक) and गजानन (one having the mouth of an elephant) शृङ्गेकर्ण (having an ear like a winnower) गणपति or गणपति (Lord of groups), the constellations of Corona, Bootes, Antares, Scorpio together may have suggested to the Sages, the figure of an elephant's head, ear and trunk, and in the initial stages Ganapati and Mahadeva may have been the same Deity (cf गणनीत्या गणपति द्विमातुर्)

55 cf \* लब्धोदर लब्धोदर लब्धोदर — गणपति श्री १६

\* The symbol of Omkar ॐ and \* represented him.

In our opinion, the constellation of इक्ष्वा, विशाखा, अनुषा, ज्येष्ठा, and मूला, together correctly represented मणपति. This figure can be called a peacock also. He was represented by other groups of stars by the Asuras. They perhaps were, the MUSCA (मूषक), CARINA (करिन्), Reticulum (meaning a net, i. e. पाला) and so on.

## (3)

## GOD SKANDA or KARTIKEYA

Vedic Literature and Puranas abound in stories about the birth of रुद्र, and कार्तिकेय. He has received the following names - षण्मथुर (six-mothered), तारक्षिज् (conqueror of Tārak), कार्तिकेय (born of कृत्तिका), बहुलेय (born of बहुला), ओज्य (born of ऊर्जा), रौद्र (born of रुद्र), शिववाहन (one having the peacock as the vehicle) and so on. In our opinion, as the Ages rolled by, some of the constellations which previously formed a part of महादेव, gradually left the Sura half, and other clusters newly appeared. This was taken to be the "parting of authority" to Gajanan and Shadanana. God Shiva had eight wives (stars) two of whom were given over to Gajanan and six others to Skanda. Because, both these Gods received the control of star groups from Rudra, they were called the 'sons of Rudra' or रुद्र. The constellation of CENTAURUS (शततार) which formerly belonged to the Asura half, entered the Sura half, and this event was interpreted as the conquering of the तारक्षिज् by Skanda, who thereby came to be known as the तारक्षिज्. After about 12 000 years, parts of the constellations of Tauri Gemina and Aurigae, which together gave an impression of a peacock (see the diagram given on page 52) represented the Skanda. The star कृत्तिका is called बहुला. The constellation of AURIGAE contains one principal star and six others. He is also called आग्नेय (son of Agni) because Agni is the Deity of कृत्तिका (cf. नक्षत्रे सप्तसीर्षम वह्निवत्). He is called a मयूरकेतु. This is clear from the shape of a peacock suggestible from the stars.

## (4)

## PRAJAPATI

Two different constellations were taken to represent the Prajapati. One is described as a combination of the clusters of<sup>98</sup>

<sup>98</sup> एतदक्षरीयं प्रजापति इत्युक्तं एतत्तु इत्यत्र विना शिवा मन्त्रान् इत्यत्र विनाले उक्तं अनुषाया प्र तिष्ठ ।

हस्त, चित्रा, निष्ठ्या, विशाखा and अनुराधा The second is represented by the constellation of ORION (वृश्चिक) <sup>1</sup>

(5)

## VARUNA

We find the position of Varuna definitely specified by the following mantra which we chant every day —

शखादौ चतुर्दश कुक्षो वरुण देवता । पृष्ठे प्रचापनिधेव अप्रे मया .” The word ORION is clearly the corrupt form of Varuna (वरुण) This constellation consists of three curved lines of stars resembling “Chille” The Amarkosha gives सेतुम् and तिज्जहाक as the synonyms for वरुण <sup>2</sup> The word सेतुम् appears to be the constellation of CETUS.

(6)

## INDRA

In our view, the constellation of Magha represented the Vedic Deity of Indra, who was generally represented by the Equinoctial Sun He received the title of मघवान् <sup>3</sup> because of his association with this cluster The Phalguni constellation which was known as अर्जुनी or गौ represented the Divine Cows (गाव कामदुषा) These cows are said to be killed when the Sun comes to Maghas (cf अवसु इज्यन्त्येते गाव ।)

(7)

## KUBERA

He is called the God of Wealth and the friend of God Shiva (अयधरसया) He is called the वैश्रवण (i. e. Governor of a province from which the portion called धवण has been snatched away) In our every day prayer, when we offer flowers at the end of our worship, we request him to give us the sovereignty of the whole earth including that of विदेवेश who are simply “members of a Federation” under him (cf राजधिराजय—नमो वय वैश्रवणाय कुम्हरे समे सगान्—कामेश्वरे वैश्रवणो ददातु । कुम्हरेण वैश्रवणाय—विदेवेशा सगान् इति) He is called the कामेश्वर (i. e. God of काम or मदन) The Vedic works give the Lordship of the ‘Ashadha’ constellation to विदेवेश This constellation consists of a dozen second

<sup>1</sup> “ वज्रायर्हि वसो इतिताम् अश्वध्वयम् वेदिष्व वृत्तं यजेते २. ४. ११ १

<sup>2</sup> “ वरुणो वरुणः सृष्टिकर्ताय गुम्हरे — अमरकोश

<sup>3</sup> इति कामेश्वर इतिताम् अश्वध्वयम् Rik. Sam.

grade bright stars. In our opinion, he was given the lordship of the whole of the region formerly under the control of God काम or मदन and that of the whole of Ashadha group from which the cluster called CORONA (or क्रोण) was taken away, and that is why he came to be known as कामेश्वर and वज्रवज्र. He is also called नखाइन because the figure of Sagittarius (Archer) was formerly that of a human body.

(8)

MADANA <sup>60</sup> (God of Love)

The Amarkosha gives the following epithets - पञ्चशर (Five arrowed), पुष्पधन्वा (One having a bow of flowers) मकरध्वज (Having the flag of मकर i. e. crocodile) मीनकेतन (Having a fish at the tail), अलग्न (Having no body). The star map mentions the following stars which are clearly the arrows referred to by the शेष (1) SCUTUM = चूतम् (or mango) (2) SAGITTA (meaning an arrow), (3) ALTAIR = (The 'Teer or 'arrow), (4) VULPECULA = कुद्वकुल or अशोक. The fifth one could not be identified. The constellation of SAGITTARUS (meaning a bow) is the धनुः. The cluster of Delphin resembles a 'fish'. All these stars are seen in the Milky way, and they together give an impression of a मकर (or crocodile).

(9)

## NAGAS

The whole sky appears to have a number of snakelike clusters. The star map does give such constellations under the names (1) SERPENS (2) HYDRA, (3) DRACO. There is a cluster called SERPENS (Cepet). It is clearly the सप्तशर. We also find a SERPENS Caudaa or पोदाशर. The HYDRA may be the बाहुना and DRACO the शेष. That 'nagas' were a deity can be proved beyond doubt by the following lines—

(1) ओंकार प्रथमतो न्यसाभि नगास्तृतीयततो न्यसाभि  
—यज्ञोपवीतधारणविधि

(2) ब्रह्मगमीश कमलासनस्य कर्षोध सर्वाङ्ग उत्पन्न दिव्याम् ।

(10)

## AGNI

Agni was the first Deity of the Vedic Sage (cf. अग्निं देवानां मुख) His position can be identified either with that of LIBRA + SCORPIO

60 When this portion of the sky passed into the Divine half the event was interpreted as the destruction of काम or मदन and hence God Mahadev received the epithet of वज्रेश्वर and वज्रवज्र.

or with कृत्तिका, रोहिणी and मृग<sup>61</sup> This double representation in the case of many of the Deities is significant as shown later on. Among the 34 synonyms of Agni as enumerated by Amarkosha the following are significant from our standpoint. Agni is called the सिद्धावान् (i.e. having a plume). The star Pleades looks like the plume of a peacock. He is सप्तावि (i.e. worshipped seven times). बृहद्मानु (A major Sun). The lines<sup>62</sup>, usually uttered on the occasion of the वैश्वदेव sacrifice, present before our eyes a clear picture of the Deity having association with the star Pleades, which is known as कृत्तिका, बहुल or और्जा. The अभ्याधान or the commencement of a yearly sacrifice was associated with the rising<sup>63</sup> of the star कृत्तिका, exactly in the East. The Agni was therefore called मेघारुह. Because the Mesha sign or the constellation of stars resembling a ram, commenced from कृत्तिका, Agni came to be known as मेघारुह and मेघध्वज. The Vedic Literature shows that the Vedic Sages used to perform periodic sacrifices of durations of 7, 9 and 10 months each. They were known as the सप्तमा, नवमा and दशमा. It is on account of the seven monthly sacrifices that the Agni is called सप्तावि. The star Pleades consists of a cluster of seven stars and is called the "चक्षत्र सप्तशीर्षान्". Since Agni is worshipped seven times during the day (अह्) of 180 days and seven times during the night, the sacrifice had two beginnings (मुख or शीर्ष) and hence Agni is aptly described as सप्तावि and द्विशीर्षक. The year was divided into four quarters, they used to perform four quarterly sacrifices and hence Agni appears to have received the name of चतुश्चक्र. The star Kritika, which was the beginning point of मेष, gave the signal of the advent of the new year and Agni came to be known as मेघध्वज. He is called the रोहिताश्व. The star popularly known as the Al-deberran or रोहिणी consists of seven stars, of which the principal star is very red. The cluster is called HYADES which is clearly the corrupt form of ह्यादि. The Arabic name "aldeberran" itself means "The ZEBRA" or the horse (रोहिताश्व = red horse). This cluster, therefore, formed a part of the constellation of Agni. He is also

61 रोहिताश्व and रोहिणी are names of Agni. The red star रोहिणी situated in the horse-like constellation of Rohini suggests the name.

62 सवस्तु चतुश्चक्र सप्तमाहो द्विशीर्षक । विषद प्रसन्नवदन मेघास्तो जटावद्धो धूमध्वजे रोहिताश्व सप्तावि सर्ववामद । मेघध्वज प्राच्यमुख

63 कृत्तिकास्य आर्षं न । सर्वे ह वै नक्षत्राणि आर्षे दिवा । अर्षा-ते । कृत्तिका न चान्ये

called चित्रम्बु reminding one of Agni's position at the Sun's rise with चित्रा in the East

## (11)

## BRAHMA

He is said to be the controlling deity of the star अभिजित् (L-LYRA). His wife, Goddess Sharada is said to be fond of playing on a lyre or LYRA. The vehicle<sup>64</sup> of Brahma is said to be the SWAN. The star map gives us a constellation of CYGNUS whose meaning is swan Just near this cluster is that of the "LYRA" and VEGA is the brightest star The star Vega, therefore, used to represent God Brahma in the earlier Vedic Age. His position is said to be at the bottom of a jar ( कलशाल मुखे विष्णु मुले तत्र स्थितो ब्रह्मा ) but he always occupies the zenithal position ( cf ऊर्ध्वे दिक्षे ब्रह्मणे नम्र )

## (12)

## VISHNU

He is generally represented by God Sun He has been given the lordship of the star, Shravana He is called the महश्चक्र The constellation of Aquilla was, therefore, the representative of Vishnu, with two bright stars of अश्वि as the principal stars

## (13)

## RUDRA-YAMA AND SHANL

Rudra is the later synonym of God Shiva It is derived from Ardra He is said to have become a hunter ( व्याध = SIRIUS ) and shot an arrow to the deer which was the form taken up by प्रजापति The star Sirius is therefore the यम and शनि both The word CANIS is the corrupt form of शनि Both of them are called " रुद्रे <sup>६५</sup> १ e. derived from or born of Rudra.

## (14)

## USHA or DAWN

Vedic Literature abounds in hymns composed in the praise of Usha or dawn which usually attracted them for days together and it was an object of veneration The following lines will show that सोषा was an epithet of उषा —

64 हयवदन

65 कालोत्पत्तौ रौद्र यमोऽप्यसु । रुद्रो यमि रित्यवदुसैरि ।

1 वाजिनीवती सूर्यस्य योषा चित्रामपाख्य ईशेवसूता

Rik. S 7755

11 उषा ददर्शि रदिमभिव्यक्ता चित्रामपाविधमनुग्रभूता

Rik. S 7773

According to Amarkosha, योषा means a beautiful woman, and the list of its synonyms contains वसरोद्गा as one. This word has undergone corruption and we have today the word AURORA which is universally known to be a flood light seen in the North Polar region

We close the discussion by adding a list of names of other constellations which are probable corruptions of Sanskrit words shown against them

A list of Arabic names of stars may prove to be very useful to a prospective research scholar

<i>Ara</i>	=	अरा	<i>Horolocum</i>	=	हल्लोकम्
<i>Antares</i>	=	अतारि (धन्वतरि)	<i>Indus</i>	=	इन्दु
<i>Apus</i>	=	आप	<i>Nova</i>	=	नो
<i>Cassiopea</i>	=	कश्यपीय	<i>Pleades</i>	=	प्लीहादि
<i>Canes</i>	=	स्तेन	<i>Perseus</i>	=	परशु
<i>Camelo</i>	=	कमल्ले or श्यामल्ले	<i>Pavo</i>	=	पव
			<i>Pictur</i>	=	पिचुर
<i>Caelum</i>	=	शैलम्	<i>Phoenix</i>	=	फणि
<i>Carina</i>	=	करिन्	<i>Octans</i>	=	अष्टाश
<i>Dorado</i>	=	दारदो (वासनाभय)	<i>Pyxis</i>	=	पक्षि
<i>Canopus</i>	=	कोणप	<i>Retikulum</i>	=	रतिजुलम्
<i>Fornax</i>	=	पूर्णाक्ष	<i>Sextans</i>	=	षष्ठश
<i>Forax</i>	=	गोरक्ष	<i>Camelopardus</i>	=	कमलप्रद
<i>Grus</i>	=	गुरु	<i>Tucana</i>	=	पुपेण

## THE STORY OF FOURTEEN JEWELS

We often chant the following verse which mentions 14 jewels having been obtained by the Gods (सुरा) who had a constant struggle with the Asuras about their share. The lines run thus -



लक्ष्मी कौस्तुभ पारिजातक मुग्न घनवतरीश्वरदमा  
 गण कामदुषा सुरेश्वरगजो रभादि देवागना  
 अथ सप्तमुखो विष हरिधनु शखोऽमृत वायुधे  
 रत्नानीह चतुर्दश प्रतिदिन कुर्वन्तु वो मंगलम् ॥

According to the prevalent story which is not Vedic the Gods and Demons were engaged in the task of churning the ocean. The churning rod (मयनदड) was the Meru and the rope was the snake VASUKI. They quarrelled over the possession of the jewels which emerged from the ocean and ultimately Gods could obtain the possession of the 14 jewels enumerated in the above verse. (It is to be noted that the list includes विष or poison. It is surprising that this is regarded as a jewel.)

The story, which is current in other Puranic works, is that in the beginning, a jar of poison (विषकुम्भ) came out and there was a very small quantity of nectar (अमृत) in its mouth. Neither Gods nor Demons were prepared to accept the jar of poison. God Shiva then placed the poison in his throat which became blue in colour and he was, thenceforth called नीलकण्ठ.

These mythological stories have got some Astronomical meaning and it is our attempt to bring to light the secrets or the mysterious meanings lying underneath these stories. Our search for the origin of names of stars has helped us in finding out the truth, which is not known to the world and it is claimed that the secret will be known through this book for the first time.

It is our claim that the fourteen jewels are none other than 14 constellations of stars which came up above the horizon of polar region one by one as the Ages rolled by. Each such constellation had one star of the first magnitude in it. These stars formerly belonged to the Southern hemisphere, the common boundary being the Equatorial horizon (the क्षितिज or समुद्र or possibly वायुरी). The whole universe rotated about the axis of the Earth which always pointed out to the Pole or Meru. The list of modern names of stars which are Greek or Latin or Arabic and which is the basis of our research work, shows beyond doubt that the jewels are single bright stars or clusters containing them. It is up to scholars to find out if there can be a better selection of stars in disagreement with that of

ours. We could not get the Arabic dictionary, but it is our belief that when the meaning of Arabic names is known, it will lend an additional support to our stand.

## THE JEWEL REPRESENTED BY A STAR OR A CONSTELLATION

- 1 रुद्रमो —The Amarkosha gives a list of synonyms for रुद्रमो in which the word श्री occurs. The star map gives a list of stars of first magnitude, of which the first is the *SIRIUS*. Curiously enough, this is the corrupt form of the word श्री. Hence, रुद्रमो is *SIRIUS*.
- 2 वीस्तुभ—According to Amarkosha, this is the name of the jewel worn by God Vishnu on his chest. This lotus-like jewel is the bright star of *VEGA* (अभिजित्) which is the seat of God Brahma.
- 3 पारिजातक—This is the name of a Divine tree. We do see a starry tree in the diagram. It has five branches, the middle branch has a first grade star, named स्वाती in it. It is called *ARCTURUS* which appears to be a corrupt form of अर्कतरु. Hence, this branch along with स्वाती is the पारिजातक.
- 4 बुरा—The word *ORION* is the constellation of बरुण बाहणी (or बुरा) is the feminine form of the word बरुण. The bright star of  $\beta$ -*ORION* was बुरा.
- 5 धन्वतरी—The star cluster of Ashvini whose controlling deity was the अश्विना (the Divine Physicians).
- 6 चन्द्रमा—The star *BETELGEUSE* is situated in the constellation of Gemini. It resembles a hare or शर. This was naturally called a शशक or चन्द्रमा.
- 7 गङ्ग—The constellation of Phalguni contain a number of bright stars. कल्युनी,\* अर्जुनी and गौ are, according to Amarkosha, synonyms.
- 8 सुरेश्वरगज—The constellation of *CORVUS* admits of another interpretation. It is popularly known as दस्त (derived from हस्ति) It is easily seen to be the corrupt form of वरभ (a young one of an elephant.) A shape of an elephant with his head at the bright star of चित्रा can be easily imagined out. So चित्रा with Corvus was the Divine Elephant.

- 9 रभादि देवांगना -The bright stars of Vishakha and Anuradha together The star of Vishakha was called the रुषा (See Amarkosha) That which followed this were naturally called the अनुराधा 'Radha' means a beautiful woman These stars were the Divine damsels<sup>67</sup>
- 10 अश्व सप्तसुख -The constellation of Magha was the seven headed horse. The principal star is known as *REGULUS*<sup>68</sup> meaning a horse. This consists of seven very bright stars
- 11 विष -The star Jyestha, known as  $\alpha$ -*ANTARES* It has been shown before, that this cluster gave the name of नीलकण्ठ to God Shiva.
- 12 हरिषदु -We get this very exact name today It is the constellation of *ERIDANUS* which is clearly its corrupt form.
- 13 शङ्ख -The conch-like cluster of Rohini may have been considered to be a jewel This position is verifiable in the description of various objects described in the mantra for शङ्ख
- 14 अमृत -is the first grade star of *FOMALHAUT* situated just below the constellation of *AQUARIUS* or कुम्भ In our opinion the Sanskrit alphabet of ऋ has been transliterated as ञ (or l) + र (mistaken by p or h )

67 "देवानामङ्गना उच्यते" Amarakosh.

68. It is our belief that Regulus is the corrupt form of रुषा which means "rope-like. The constellation has that shape.

# SECTION VII

## CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF VEDIC MANTRAS, HYMNS AND STORIES

It is now proposed to illustrate the correctness of our stand (viz that the Vedic Sages lived in the North Polar region for thousands of years, before the Age of the Shatapatha and Taittiriya Brahman works) by showing how the meanings of a number of passages, hymns and stories, could be found to be clear, which are otherwise obscure or not appealing to reason. An attempt has been made to show that most of them are descriptions of scenes actually witnessed and of experiences of life actually lived by the Vedic Rishis. They are not descriptions of miracles or of self-conceived notions. A few examples of each are being given below.

(A) Those which describe the position of a Deity.

### 1. GODS BRAHMA, VISHNU AND OTHER DEITIES.

- (a) ब्रह्माण्मोश कमलसुखस्य ऋषीष्य सर्वान् उरग्यथ दिव्यान् ।
- (b) ध्येय सदा सवितृमण्डलमप्यवर्ती नारायण सरसिजासनसन्निविष्ट ।
- (c) शक्राकारं भुजगशयन पद्मनाम सुरेश ।

No 1 (a) reminds one of a list of Gods and Deities worshipped by our Vedic Sages. God Brahma was represented by the star Abhijt (VEGA), which at one time used to occupy an almost zenithal position. The cluster of stars all around it was taken to be a lotus whose stem was connected with another asterism consisting of dragon-shaped stars. This cluster is now a-days known as the DRACO. This may have been the भुजग or शेष on which lay the God Vishnu referred to in 1 (c) above. The 'Rishis' were none other than the Saptarshis (Great Bear of today). The उरग are the serpent like clusters now designated as 'SERPENS' in the Star Atlases today. One

of them viz, "SERPENS CEPUT" is the सर्पसर्प No 1 (b) is a hymn chanted by us in honour of God Sun In our opinion, this refers to God Brahma who is clearly said to be "seated on a seat of lotus" (सरसिजसन्सन्निविष्ट) and whose position has to be conceived as occupying the central position of the cycles of diurnal rotation traced by the sun (सवितुर्मण्डलमध्यवर्ती ध्येय) Abhijt used to remain visible continuously for six months during the Divine night. But during the day of 6 months, his position has to be imagined, and that is why this idea has been given in the hymn, 1 (b)

## 2 The PURUSHA (विश्वं विष्णुर्वषट्कारं पुरुषं)

The Purusha was represented by the Omniscient UNIVERSE which includes everything This universe was actually seen as a revolving hemispherical dome of the sky and this motion was found to be ever continuous and non-stop (असङ्ग) and nobody knew the beginning or the end This idea has been recorded in the following lines:-

(a) बाह्वदमद्वल्लकारं व्याप्तं येन वराचर ।

(b) "नान्तं न मध्यं न पुनस्तत्तादि" — भगवद्गीता

## 3. THE DIVINE DOGS

The following references from different Vedic works definitely point to the fact that some stars came to be known as "dogs," and two of them were very bright. Even today, the modern Star Atlases give stars known as the "CANIS MAJOR" (i e. a bigger dog) and "CANIS MINOR" (a smaller dog) The star SIRIUS (व्याघ्र) is known as the Dog star There is no harm if it be supposed that the following verses and passages are reminiscent of some astronomical phenomena which were interpreted as the "passage" of dog stars in the Divine half as years rolled by -

(a) यो तो श्वानो यमरक्षितायै ( i e, guarding the Southern direction ) चतुरक्षीं पथिरक्षीं वृचक्षीं — Rik. Sam. 10-14-11.

(b) ध्रुवो दिव्यस्य यन्महस्तेनादे हविता विभेय ॥ ये ध्रुवः कालकंजा दिवि देवा इव धिता तान्सर्वान्भुञ्जते ॥ " Atharva Sam. 6. 80

(c) " तज्जगत्तु भयो भवन् ॥ द्वावुत्पत्ताम् ॥ तौ दिव्यौ धानावभवताम् " Tai. Sam.

(d) " वैवस्वतपुले जाती द्वौ श्यामश्वकौ ध्रुवौ " — ( वैवस्वत मय )

#### 4. THE STARRY PRAJAPATI

The Taittiriya Brahman quotes the following lines to describe the Starry Prajapati —

यो व नक्षत्रिय प्रजापतिं वेद ॥ उमयोरेव त्येभ्योविंदु ॥ इत्त एवास्य इत्त चित्रा शिर निष्ठया  
इदं विराजे ऊरु अनुराधा प्रतिष्ठा ॥ प्रतिष्ठानुराधा ॥ एष वै नक्षत्रिय प्रजापति

Tai Br 1522

“ This verily is the starry Prajapati The star Hasta is his hand Chitra his head, Nishtya his heart, the twin stars of Vishakha his thighs and Anuradha the foot-stool to stand upon.”

It will be interesting to note that a human figure could be imagined out of these astensms

#### 5. THE DIVINE BOAT

The boat-like cluster of stars which we find situated in the Milky way and is designated as ‘ Nova ’ in the Star Atlas, appears to have been an object of interest to Vedic Rishis.

The following lines from the Samhitas cannot fail to draw the attention of a critical reader suggesting to him the idea that the words नावम् and नौ in them may have been the NOVA of today —

(a) “ हिरण्यो नौ अवतरत् हिरण्यवधना दिवि ॥ तत्रामृतस्य पुष्य देवा ब्रुवन्तन्वत ॥ ”

Atharva Sam. 6952 and 544

(b) “ दैवो नावम् स्वरिद्रामनासमत्स्यती ”

Rik Sam 106310

#### 6 THE SAPTARSHIS

In the later Vedic Age, our sages appear to have recorded the high position of the Great Bear The following lines from different Vedic works clearly show that the stars now known as the सप्तर्षि s were originally called the कृत्तू or Bear This constellation appears to have occupied an almost zenithal position and the following lines clearly support our view —

(a) “ ऊर्ध्वं सप्तर्षीनुपतिष्ठत् ”

Tandya Br 155

(b) “ अमीयग्रक्षः निहितासउच्चानक्ष ददर्श ”

Rik. S 12410

(c) “ सप्तर्षीनुह स्म वै पुरक्षो इयावक्षते

Shatapatha Br 21.24

## 7. THE SHANKHA (शङ्ख)

The following mantra is chanted at the time of worshipping the Conch (शङ्ख)

शङ्खादौ चन्द्रदेवस्य कुक्षौ वरुण देवता ॥ पृष्ठे प्रजापतिश्चैव अग्रे मया सरस्वती ॥ त्व  
पुरा सागरोत्पन्नो विष्णुना विभुः करे ॥ निर्मित सर्वदेवैस्तु पावजन्यं नमोस्तु ते ॥

The 'Conch' is believed to be one of the 14 jewels (already described) and which was obtained by Gods (निर्मित सर्वदेवैः) from the ocean (सागरोत्पन्नो) which was churned by the मेरुदण्ड. The शङ्ख is the conch shaped constellation of Rohini which contains five bright stars and hence, it came to be known as पावजन्य (made up of or created from five) on that account. The cluster of इन्वका whose governing deity is the Moon (चन्द्रदेवस्य) is near the conch, and the ORION which is the corrupt form of वरुण is at its side (कुक्षौ वरुणदेवता). The first grade star of Aldeberan (प्रजापति) is behind (पृष्ठे) and the (आकाशमण्डल) (Milky way) is in the front. This conch is said to be 'firmly held by Vishnu (Sun) (Cf विष्णुना विभुः करे)

(B) Mantras indicating some astronomical condition

### 1. The advent of "Spring"

The following lines composed in honour of God Ashvini clearly describe the astronomical condition for the advent of Spring viz the heliacal rise of the three starred cluster of Ashvini -

(a) प्रातर्युज नासत्याधितिष्ठत्य प्रातर्यावानमधुवाहन रथ

Rik. S 10. 3 47

(b) त्रिबन्धुरेण निवृत्ता मुपेरासा रथेन यातमश्विना यत्रासत्या  
परावति यदाष्टो अतो रथेन मुवृत्ता गर्ते साकं मूढस्य रुक्षिभि

Rik. Sam 1 9 47

All mantras written in praise of God Ashvini or Nasatya invariably mention the condition that the God comes riding in a chariot with three wheels or having three poled canopy, and carrying मधु (i. e. Spring) and appearing at dawn.

The Vedas do not lack descriptions of popular conditions for the advent of Spring or rainy season. E.g The following well known mantra is nothing but the description of the Spring season -

मधुवाता दद्यात्ते मधु धरन्ति ह्यधनं य माधीर्न सत्वोपधी मधुनक्षमुत  
उपस ॥

The resident finds everything around him having a sweet cool touch e g, cool breeze of air, cool water, cool dust and so on. Curiously enough this mantra is chanted at the time of offering honey (मधु) to a deity. The same is the case with the mantra "दधिक्षाब्जोऽक्षरिष" which is composed in praise of दधिक्षा deity but is chanted at the time of offering curds (दधि).

## 2. The advent of Rainy Season

It was a belief that God Indra brought rains. He is said to have received the name of मघवा because of his arrival with the star मघा.

"इती मघेवां मघवा इन्द्रा भवन्"

The early rise of the cluster of मघा was a sure sign of the advent of rainy season.

## 3. The advent of the New Year

A fresh annual sacrifice always started with the advent of a new year, both of which coincided with the rise of Sun with an Eastern star. The Prajapati also started his control from this day, which used to be an equinoctial day. The Sun, who was so far invisible and living with the Asuras (in the Pitri half अक्षरनाम) was to enter the Divine half (देवनाम) and was hailed with hymns composed in his praise. This moment was a very important one and people, it seems, used to beat drums and ring bells to express their joy. This idea appears in the following popular mantra which is chanted at the time of worshipping a घटा (bell) —

आगमार्थं तु देवानां यमनार्थं तु रक्षसां ।

कुरु घटाख तत्र देवताइन्द्रलक्ष्णम् ॥

The ringing of bells was a kind of announcement that the old year was passing out (यमनार्थं तु रक्षसां) and the Divine day or new year was coming in (आगमार्थं तु देवानां). This custom appears to have been retained by Christians who ring bells in their Churches on 31st of December at midnight each year, saying "ring the old year out, ring the new year in."

## 4 The advent of a New Moon

It is a special condition in the Polar region that the Moon is invisible for about a fortnight (which period was called a कुण्डपक्ष) after which she made her first appearance.



This moment was naturally hailed with joy, since the residents were to get a continuous lighted period (शुद्धपक्ष) for about a fortnight. The moon did not always appear in the form of a crescent, but in any and every phase, and that is why she is described as “नवो नवो भवति” -

नवो नवो भवति जायमानेन्द्रा केतुस्वसा मेरुत्रय ।

भाग देवेभ्यो विदधात्यायन् प्रचदमास्तिरति दीर्घमायुः ॥

The word *वृद्धा* stands for the “day of the Moon,” *उष* for the “dawn like light created by the Moon,” *भाग* means “the part” and not “a share”

### 5. Creation of the UNIVERSE and TIME

“युतं च सत्यचाभीदात् तपसोऽप्यजायत ॥ ततो रात्र्यजायत ॥ तत समुद्रोऽर्जव ॥  
समुद्रार्णवादधिस्रवत्सरोऽजायत ॥ अहोरात्राणि विदधत् विश्वस्य म्रियतो वशी ॥  
सूर्योचदमसी धाता यथापूर्वमकल्पयत् दिव च पृथ्वीपातारिहमयो स्वाहा ॥”

Rik Sam 10 190

This gives a description of how the ocean and earth came to existence. Then the ‘space’ and ‘sky’ were taken to be separate forms of Existence. Then the movements of the Sun and the Moon were observed, and then, the long and short nights and days making up a year were actually seen and recorded

### 6. SUN'S motion

The सौत्सूक्त is full of mantras giving an idea as to how the Sun was “conceived” The following lines, for example are a prayer to Almighty that the God Sun may shower blessings and long life on us on all sides -

सविता पश्चात्तात् सविता पुरस्तात् सवितोत्तरात्तात् सविताधरात्तात् ॥

सविता न भुवन्तु सर्वतर्हि सविता नो रास्ता दीपमायुः ॥

The Sun is here described as being visible in all directions all round (सर्वत) and also going underneath (अपरात्) This is clearly a description of the Sun's motion round and round while above the earth

At another place, he is described as a child playing a game of hide and seek with another child (Moon) both of whom are playing along a road -

पूर्वापर चरतो माययैतो रिशू ऋदन्ती परियातोऽध्वरम् ।

विश्वान्यन्यो भुवनाभि चरे ऋतुनन्दो विदधाज्जायते पुनः ॥

One of them ( Moon ) is said to be " describing " mansions while the other ( Sun ) is known to create ऋतु s i. e. Seasons or portion of a day

### 7 Measuring an interval of time elapsed

When a worshipper finds that there has been either a commission or an omission in the right performance of his worship he has to chant the following lines by way of appeal to God -

प्रनादात्कुर्वता कर्म प्रच्यवेताप्यरेषु यत् ।

स्मरणादेव तद्विष्णो सपूज स्यादिति श्रुति ॥

The " Shruti " says that a simple act of remembering God Vishnu, & a simple utterance of Vishnu's name would be sufficient to wipe off all his sins and omissions. This is something unbelievable. The words प्रच्यवेत अप्यरेषु यत् are very significant. The Vedic sense of the word च्यवन is " deviation from or swerving away from." The Shatapatha Brahmana for instance quotes the lines " सवेद वै नक्षत्राणि प्रच्ये दिशश्च्यवन्ते कुतश्च न च्यवन्ते— " The correct interpretation of these lines would be as follows.—

" According to Shrutis, if one finds that he has gone astray from the time path while calculating his position in the time line he should simply recount that the starting point is Vishnu's feet ( i. e. star ध्रुव ), from which the time cycle is believed to have been started, the difference in the position of the equinox in the present time from that in his time will immediately give him an idea of the ' period of time elapsed ".

### 8. Measuring a Year

It has already been shown that Vedic Sages used to measure a year by performing a yearly sacrifice in one attempt, or by performing the same in periodic sacrifices, two, three, four, five or six during the Divine day and the same during the Divine night

The following lines, which are chanted by Brahmuns on the occasion of a ceremonial dinner reminds us of the Vedic system of performing periodic sacrifices —

चतुर्भिश्च चतुर्भिश्च द्वाभ्या पचन्निरेव च ।

द्वयते च पुनर्द्वाभ्या स मे विष्णु प्रसीदतु ॥

We do not agree with the popular interpretation of this Mantra

### (C) Examples of "Misplaced" Mantras

We come across scores of examples in which a particular mantra is declared to have been composed by a particular Sage in honour of a particular deity, but is now made use of for a different occasion. No reasons are given as to why this use is made. E g The mantra "पृथ्वी त्वया धृता लोकाः" is composed by the Sage मेरुष्ट, the deity being कूर्मा देवता (tortoise), the metre being सुतल and is now being used for offering a seat (आसन) to the deity concerned —

(1) "पृथिवि त्वया धृता लोका देवि त्वं विष्णुना धृता ।  
तत्र धारय मा देवि पवित्रं कुरु आसनम् ॥"

(1) The goddess of Earth has been requested to support the worshipper, just as she had supported different worlds and the deity herself was supported by God Vishnu himself. This refers to the old story of how God Vishnu drew the Earth up from out of the ocean and kept it up floating by assuming the form of a tortoise. This mantra is not found in the RigVeda.

Note (These lines have been taken here to show that all mantras chanted on the occasion of daily religious ceremonies (दैन्य प्रज्ञकर्म) do not necessarily incorporate early Vedic notions.)

(2) Certain passages from Brahmana and Aranyaka works reveal that their commentators have not understood the correct meanings of certain astronomical terms. In other words, it can be said that they had lost the original Vedic sense during the Smṛiti Age. As an example could be quoted the following lines from the Bṛihadaranyak, which is taken as the main support by certain almanac makers in adopting a new definition of the word "Tithi"

"एष चत्वारः प्रजापतिः पौष्णकः ॥ तस्य रात्रय एव पचदशकृत्य ध्रुववात्स  
पौष्णकः ॥ रात्रिभिरेवात्र पूर्वते अपचक्षीयते ॥ सोष्मावात्स रात्रि एतत्वा पौष्णकः कृत्या  
सप्तमिदं प्राणमृद् भवुप्रविद्य तत् प्रातजयते ॥ तस्मिन्नेता रात्रिः ॥"

If the traditional Vedic meanings of terms occurring in this passage be accepted, the sense of the passage will be clear. They are —

(1) सुवत्सर. = षट् = The period of six months between the Vernal to Autumnal Equinox, i.e. 21st March to 23rd September.

(ii) कला = A period of 12 days

(iii) रात्रि = A divine 'रात्रि' is equivalent to 6 months and a human रात्रि is equivalent to 12 hours

(iv) प्रातः = Commencement of the (divine) day, i.e. the moment of vernal equinox

(v) ध्रुवा = Fixed or constant.

(vi) अमावास्या = The period of time during which the Sun and the Moon dwell together. Such "dwelling together" for a period of about 12 days, occurs a number of times during the night of 6 months

We now translate the above lines as follows —

"This is the Prajapati's Samvatsar (as opposed to the Divine Samvatsar of 180 days). It consists of 16 Kalas (of 12 days each), of which the nights themselves constitute 15 'Kalas' (तस्य रात्रय एव पञ्चदशकलाः) The 16th Kala period is devoted to the nourishment of herbs etc, and at the end of this period the morning occurs. The Samvatsar (gets filled) increases and diminishes only during the nights "

It is to be noted that at least up to the date of Mahabharata कला<sup>०</sup> (Kala) definitely was a time unit and not an angle. The Prajapati's Samvatsar i.e., a Samvatsar according to Prajapati's System was a period of 192 days.

(3) We chant the following line to purify the body of the concerned deity 'शरीरशुद्धयय पञ्चानन्यास च करिष्ये' and while so doing we offer water, to wash different parts of the idol. According to our opinion, the word न्यास should be taken at its literal meaning of ejection or "throwing away". We can purify our body only by throwing away the impurities through five organs viz, the mouth, the eyes, organs of generation, nose, and rectum. The idea is to wash these parts after the impurities are thrown away.

(4) The following mantras give definite indication of the presentation of old Vedic tradition of giving help to deserving persons. They used to perform five kinds of sacrifices, of which

one was termed the "वेद्यदेव" i.e. a sacrifice in honour of "General Deities in the Universe" This is nothing but the offering of oblations ( help ) to the meritorious and deserving persons ( देवा ) in the society, who do not have any share under any special heading The following lines are worth considering -

( a ) "ये भूता प्रवरति दिवानक्त बलिमिच्छन्तो तेभ्यो बलिं पुष्टिसामो ददामि॥"

"I carry oblations to those persons who wander about day and night, in search of food ( बलि ) "

Such persons being dependant upon others were naturally called परपुष्ट, परस्त or बलिपुष्ट, since they used the food given by others for their subsistence. The Amarkosha gives कक<sup>1</sup> as the synonym for such persons and also for such others as take pleasure in self praise. As time went on the word कक appears to have come to mean "a crow" and the बलि meant to be offered to a बलिपुष्ट came to be known as the ककबलि ( crow's food )

( b ) The following lines uttered on this occasion are very significant,

ऐन्द्र वाक्का वायव्या याम्या नैऋतिराध ये

ते काक्ष प्रतिगृह्णन्तु भूम्या सिद्धं भयोजिह्वत

II

Here the काक्ष are desired to receive ( and not eat ) the food ( सिद्ध ) offered by the donor to all those beggars who may have come in search of food from any of the directions belonging to God Indra, Varuna, Vayu, Yama, Nirruti and others

( c ) The donor is prepared to offer an oblation even to those two Divine dogs who used to guard the South We find a reference to this in the following lines -

वैवस्वतकुले जातो हौ श्यामशबलौ शुनी ।

ताभ्या पिण्डो मया दत्तो रक्षेता पथिमा सदा ॥

( 5 ) The following mantra is chanted by Pandits who celebrate the death anniversary of a Saint or an Ascetic -

वसुधैवाकुलमन्त्रं ब्रूयन्ता दीर्घतमा मम तेयो जुतुर्वान्दशमे दुगे ॥

अपामर्यं यतीनां तु ब्रह्मा भवति सारथि ॥

Rik Sam 2 3 1

These lines are composed by the Sage दीर्घतमा (the son of ममता) in honour of the Ashvini Deity They have to do nothing with

<sup>1</sup> ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं

भक्तिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं ककिं

the ascetics. The word यतीना occurring in them may have led people to think that the passage refer to 'ascetics'

(6) We come across another set of three deities, with whom are compared the 'Manes' (पितर), their names are uttered on the occasion of the श्राद्ध ceremony. The words 'पितृपितामह प्रपितामहाना . वसुधादित्यस्वरूपाणा' remind us of the oldest Vedic tradition according to which there were seven Sun Gods of whom वसु, रद, and आदित्य were the first three. (Cf वसुसि रदासि आदित्यसि) Later Ages appear to have increased the number of Deities, making 8 वसुs, 11 रदs and 12 आदित्यs. These three deities are supposed to represent the three generations of the departed souls. A student of astronomy very well understands the fact viz just as, after about every 1000 years a fresh star would be seen rising in the East, the star at the end of the Divine half would enter into the Pitri half and would be called a "Pitri". The first one to be a Pitri would be वसु, the next one रद, and the third one the आदित्य. This is the reason why the number of वसुs रदs and आदित्यs was multiplied. According to the Vedic works, वसु is the controlling Deity of the star श्रविष्ठा, रद that of ज्येष्ठा and आदित्य that of पुनर्वसु. The three stars after becoming the पितृs appear to have still retained their right of being respected as Gods.

#### (D) SOME IMPORTANT SUKTAS

Our Vedic Brahmins chant a number of hymns known as Suktas in praise of Vedic Deities and the Almighty. The most widely known are (i) पुरुषसूक्त (ii) सारसूक्त (iii) श्रीसूक्त (iv) रदसूक्त (v) अथर्वशीर्ष (vi) ब्रह्मसूत्र including त्रिमुक्ती. It is now intended to show that these Suktas contain mantras which definitely point to some astronomical conditions. We will take a few examples from each

#### I THE PURUSHA SUKTA (पुरुषसूक्त)

A number of lines in this Sukta clearly admit of an astronomical sense. The Almighty was known as the Purusha. His magnitude was unmeasurable. His representative was the Sun who was the Vedic representative of Vishnu and Narayana also. The Sun used to be observed describing circles of revolution round the Earth and he was seen at some definite 'highest

altitude.' The time used to be measured in terms of so many Samvatsars or yearly sacrifices. It has already been shown that 1000 was the biggest number conceived by them. Sun and Moon were the 'eyes of the Universe, the Sun was the Divine eye and the Moon was an eye set for the Asuras (Cf चक्षुषी इवा एते यत् शुक्लमथिनौ, तत्तचक्षु देवहित etc.) The following lines can now easily be interpreted in the light of the above-mentioned Vedic tradition.—

(1) सहस्रशीर्षो पुण्यं सहस्राक्षं सहस्रमाह सभूमिं विधत्ते (on all sides) कृत्वा (after encircling) भवतिष्ठत् दराशुलम् (stood at a height measurable by 10 angulas)

According to very ancient Vedic tradition, glimpses of which are found in the later work (शुक्लसूक्त) the Sages used to draw a circle of one हस्त (cubit) radius and fix a pole in the centre. The height of the Sun used to be measured by means of a समिध् which would cast a shadow equal to one Hasta (or 24 anguls). The mantra says that at the highest height, the length of the gnomon used to be only 10 anguls. This gives us a clue of finding the altitude. If  $x^\circ$  be the altitude then  $\tan x = \frac{10 \text{ angulas}}{1 \text{ Hasta}} = \frac{10}{24} = \frac{5}{12} = 42$  nearly. This gives an angle of  $23^\circ$  which is very correct.

(ii) The ancient sages who are called इवा or साध्या by the composer of this hymn were known to be performing a different kind of sacrifice for which the देव did not need any animal ghee or oblation. They simply fastened to the pole the 'Purusha' (अवचन् पुरुष पशुम्). For example see the following lines —

(a) यत्पुरुषेण हामपा देवा बभ्रतन्वता वसन्तोऽस्याऽऽतीक्षन्त्य प्राप्य इमा शरद हवि

(b) त यज्ञं पुरुषं पातमप्रत तेन देवाऽवजन्त साध्या कृपयथ ये ।

(c) ' देवा यद यत्र अतन्वानाऽवजन्त पुरुष पशुम् ॥ यज्ञेन यज्ञमयजत देवा तानि यमाणि प्रथमानि आसन् '

(iii) The number of complete cycles of revolutions round the horizon as observed by the sages was 147. This is possible only at some place whose latitude is  $82^\circ$ . This suggests that the writer of this hymn may have lived in this latitude. सप्तहस्यासन् परिधयं त्रि सप्त समिधः कृता ।

Trans—His rotations were seven groups of three times seven, i. e.  $7 \times 3 \times 7 = 147$ .

(iv) The number of principal Deities were very few. The writer of this hymn after comparing the Universe with a Divine body, he attempted to describe the control of several parts of this Divine body by the Principal Deities as given in the following lines. This is nothing but the enumeration of Deities—*चक्षुः मनसो जात. चक्षोः स्याज्जायत मुखदिन्द्रधामिष्य प्राणाद् वायुरजायत । नाभ्या आसीद् अतरिक्ष इतीर्णा धो. etc.*

(V) The last lines of this Sukta which are believed to have been composed in honour of God Vishnu can be easily interpreted as give below—

“विष्णोः कर्माणि पश्यतः , तद्विष्णोः परमपदम् सदा पश्यति सूर्यः  
.. तद्विषासो ... जायतासः सविपते . . .”

Trans.—Do see the prowess of God Vishnu. The wise persons who keep a continued vigil (keeping awake) can see the highest position of God Vishnu for all time to come (सदा)

(vi) The lines “*त्रीणि पदा निचक्रमे*” refers to the crossing of the Heavens by Vishnu (Sun) in three strides of 9 nakshatras each. This refers to counting of time in three instalments, the period to be measured by three *चतुर्मास्य* sacrifices.

## II The ATHARVASHIRSH (अथर्वशीर्ष)

This is a hymn composed by the Sage गणक in honour of Ganapati. The initial description applies to Almighty. But later on, the description of the Deity as conceived by Manu (cf *एतत् तव मनुस्वरूप*) applies to the clusters of stars forming the constellation of Scorpio. The diagram will show that the inverse form of the cluster resembles the letter *ॐ*. The trunk-like constellation of ज्येष्ठा and मूळ together resembles the letter *ग*. The star Jyestha may have been conceived to be a crescent moon having a star in the central part (cf *अधोऽङ्गुलसित तोरणकन्द*), this being the forehead of God Ganapati.

## III The SAUR SUKTA. (सौरसूक्त)

This is composed in honour of God Sun, who received different names in different Ages. Eg The lines—

*तन्मित्रस्य वरुणस्याग्निजज्ञे and इन्द्र मित्र वरुण अग्निमाहुः अथो दिव्यं सूर्या गच्छमान् ॥  
एकं सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदति अग्निं यम मातरिस्यानमाहुः* clearly show principal



deities, viz इंद्र, मित्र, वरुण, अग्नि, गरुडमान्, यम and वसु as different forms of the same God, the Sun.

## VI The BRAHMASUTRA ( ब्रह्मसूत्रं )

A Brahmin while wearing the holy thread ( यज्ञोपवीत ) makes the thread holy by turning fingers round and round, and saying that you are making "The already threefold thread threefold." ( cf. त्रिगुणोक्तसूत्र-त्रिगुणीकरणे विनियोगः ). The original mantra " ब्रह्म ज्ञानं प्रथमं पुरस्तात् " which refers to the knowledge of Brahma by a Sage, is now made use of in the wearing of a thread which is a modified form of a holy sacrificial garment ( यज्ञोपवीत )<sup>1</sup>. Thus symbolizes the ब्रह्मसूत्र, which is nothing but the continuous thread of time created by Brahma and was known as the ब्रह्मसूत्र. The Brahman utters the following words " औंकारं प्रथमं ततो न्यसामि अग्निं द्वितीयं ततो न्यसामि नागास्तृतीयं ततो न्यसामि घोरां चतुर्थं ततो . " This is in memory of the age-old custom of measuring the time in terms of nine stars, each one getting a prominence after about every 1000 years, the न्यास or throwing in or the plotting of points in the time line has to be made nine times. The औंकार may have been represented by the constellation of मूल ( cf. मूले तत्र स्थितो ब्रह्मा ), the ज्येष्ठा by अग्नि, the Serpents by नागा, the हस्ता by घोरा and so on. The त्रिगुणीकरण of nine stars is the counting of 27 stars which would make up Brahma's one cycle.

## V The TRISUPARNA ( त्रिसुपर्ण )

This mantra is chanted on the occasion of public dinners to which a number of Brahmins are invited. It is our belief that the words " आसन्नस्यैव पक्षिं पुनरिति " may have led the writers of these mantras to prescribe their utterance on such occasions. The ultimate object of one's life was the attainment of ब्रह्म itself or at least reaching its core. The words जयातो ब्रह्मजिज्ञासा in ब्रह्मयज्ञ and ब्रह्म मेतु मा in त्रिसुपर्ण point to the same ultimate aim. The last words of these mantras viz, " तस्मात् ब्रह्मणो महिमानमाप्नोति " supports our view. The method of " understanding the Brahma " was to measure his magnitude in three ways - (1) by undertaking the evening-cum morning sacrifice ( सायं प्रातः ), (2) Morning-cum noon sacrifice, or (3) simple evening sacrifice. The त्रिसुपर्ण recalls

73 The यज्ञोपवीत is said to have been born automatically along with the Prajapati in the old vedic age ( cf. यज्ञोपवीतं तस्य पवित्रं प्रजापतेर्नैव तद्वत् पुरस्तात् )



## (1) Story of Kalakanja and other demons

The Tai Br.1 1.2 quotes the following lines —

कलकजा वै नामासुराश्चन् ॥ ते सुवर्गं त्येकस्यागिमिन्वन्त ॥ पुरुष इष्टमासुपादधात् पुरुष  
इष्टमम् ॥ स इदो धाम्नाणो भुवाण इष्टमासुपाधत् ॥ एष मे चित्रा नामेति ॥ ते सुवर्गं त्येकमा-  
प्ररोहन् ॥ स इद इष्टमानाहत् ॥ ते आर्ययन्त ॥ ये वारीयन्त ॥ त उर्णाव अभयो बभूवन् ॥  
द्वदुदस्यताम् ॥ तौ दिव्यौ धानवभवताम् ॥

"There were demons known as Kalakanjas. They performed sacrifices to attain a seat in Heaven. God Indra gave them a brick, saying "here is the brick called Chitra Worship it It will give you whatever you desire to have" They did it accordingly. They rose to higher worlds Two of them flew into heaven They were admitted as "Divine Dogs"

We come across references (from Rik.Sam and Atharva Sam.) that there were 'Dogs' posted to guard the 'Yama's world' These were called the Divine Dogs. The star maps mention the names 'dog stars' called Canis Major and Canis Minor All these stars may once have been included in the Divine half The above lines indicate a transfer of some asterisms from one half into the other

## (2) The 'Fall' of Rohini

Verses 8 to 11 \* from Vana Parva (M B ) give a story of how, the younger Rohini, in an attempt to attain highest position in the sky, fell down from the sky and disappeared This clearly refers to the passing of the Aldeberrian into Southern half as centuries rolled by

## (3) Rise of Rohini

The stories of Prajapati and Rohini as given by Aitareya and Tai Br are nothing but the reference of the astronomical phenomenon, viz re-appearance of Rohini above the Equator, then of Mngshursha and finally of Sirius (the Dogstar) The red colour of the star is attributed to her bashfulness by one Brahman and to anger by the other The three star groups must have been seen whirling round and round as if in a race.

There is a story in Mahabharata which purports to say that Revati had gone to the Divine half (स्वर्ग) and was finally allow

\* See Verses 8 to 11 given before

ed to stay there as a resident. This is nothing but the rise and permanent appearance of the star Revati as an Eastern star

It is my belief that all such Vedic stories can be interpreted astronomically.

## SECTION VIII

### VEDIC TRADITION IN ASTRONOMICAL SUBJECTS

#### A LORDSHIP OF SIGNS (रश्मिपतित्व)

All standard works on Astrology (Ancient Hindu or Modern and European) uniformly give the same list of signs (रश्मि's) for the "Own Houses" or the same signs for exaltation position (उच्च) for the planets. The Degrees of Exaltation also are almost the same except for the Sun. It is to be noted that these positions are given in terms of signs and not in terms of nakshatras. All scholars agree that *neither the Rashi system nor the divisional nakshatra system ever existed in the Vedic Age*. The origin for the allotment of particular rashis to particular planets must therefore *be traced with respect to 'stars'*. It should also not be believed that the signs and the degrees of exaltation may have been fixed quite arbitrarily in the Vedic Age, the planets may have been known to them, but we do not come across any hymns composed in their honour. The names सूर्य and वृहस्पति were definitely those of the Sun in conjunction with an Easterly rising star. The lists of names and synonyms as are those given by various writers including the Amarkosa, lead us to believe that the planets may have received their present names because of their affinity with some of the stars or with their deities, or because of their association with them in respect to colour, nature and so on.

In the following tables, are given names of planets, their own houses and houses of exaltation along with degrees according to the tradition followed by Astrologers even today. It will be our attempt to find out a rational explanation, not only for the above things but even for the order of planets and their periods as given in the Vmshottari Dasha system.

The following verses are often quoted by standard works while enumerating the lists of planets and their Houses.:-

## I

सिंहस्याधिपति सूर्या कर्कटस्य तु चंद्रमा  
 मेघवृश्चिकयोभाम कन्यामिधुनयोर्बुध  
 तुलारपभयो शुक शनिमकरकुम्भयो  
 धनुर्मीनयोर्जव एते राशीधरा स्मृता ॥

## OR

भीम शुक्र बुधचन्द्र सूर्य सौम्यो भूय कुज ।  
 शुक्र शनैश्चरो मदी शुक्रम्यादिराक्षिषा ।

## II

मेघो रवस्तथा नक्र कन्या कर्कशास्तुला  
 सूर्योदीनां क्रमादेते कविता उच्यते  
 सूर्योदीना क्रमाग्नीन स्तोत्राभाय न सततम्  
 राक्षस्तु कन्याद्या गेह मिथुन स्तोत्रम् स्मृतम् ॥

These can be exhibited in a better way in the form of a Table—

TABLE I.

S No	Planet	Own House	House Of Exaltation	Degrees	
				Indian Author	Rapha el
1	Sun	○	Leo सिंह	Aries मेष	10 19
2	Moon	☾	Cancer कर्क	Taurus वृषभ	3 3
3	Mars	♂	{ Aries & मेष Scorpio मकर रुधिक	Capricornus	28 28
4	Mercury	☿	{ Gemini & मिथुन Virgo कन्या	Virgo कन्या	15 15
5	Jupiter	♃	{ Sagittarius धनु मीन Pisces	Cancer कर्क	5 5
6	Venus	♀	Taurus & वृषभ-तुला Libra	Pisces मीन	27 27
7	Saturn	♄	Capricornus मकर Aquarius कुम्भ	Libra तुला	20 21

TABLE II

Stars with their longitudes in 1960, with Ancient and Modern names and with their Deities. —

No	Star	Long	Deity	No	Star	Long	Deity
1	अश्विनी	33°	अश्विनी	18	स्वाती	204	वसु
2	अश्विनी	36 5		19	निष्ठा	215	"
3	मरिची	46 5	यम	20	विशाखे	224	अग्नि
4	(बहुला)	56	अग्नि	21	विशाखा	236	
5	कृत्तिका	59		22	अनुराधा	242	मित्र
6	रोहिणी	69	प्रजापति	23	ज्येष्ठा	249	इन्द्र
7	मृगशिरा	82 5	सोम	24	मूळ	265	विष्णु
8	मन्वरा	93		25	पूर्वाषाढा	274	प्रजापति
9	आर्द्रा	98	इन्द्र	26	उत्तराषाढा	282	विश्वदेवा
10	पुनर्वसु	112	अग्नि	27	श्रवण	301	
11	पुष्य	128	बृहस्पति	28	धनिष्ठा	317	विष्णु
12	आश्लेषा	133	सर्प	29	धनिष्ठा	336	वसु
13	मघा	149	विष्णु	30	शतताराका	341	इन्द्र
14	पूर्वा	161	अश्विनी	31	पूर्वाषाढा	346	
15	उत्तरा	171	भग	32	उत्तराषाढा	352)	एकपाद
16	रश्मि	93	सविता	33		358)	
17	चित्रा	203	इन्द्र	34	रेवती	8	अहिर्बुधिन
						13	पूषा
						19	पूषा

## STAGE I. : LORDSHIPS OF STARS.

It is our feeling that before the *आदिन्यादि* Age, *The nakshatra divisional system was not in vogue*. An attempt has been made to show that the planets were first given the lordships of nakshatras i.e. stars (and not of Rashis). The stars suggested by us will appear to lie in the intervals of  $30^\circ$ , in both the two systems. We leave it to readers to find out which of these systems may have been ultimately responsible for the present system of Lordships of signs.

## STAGE II. DEGREES OF PLANETS IN EXALTATION

(With respect to fixed stars)

It is attempted to show that the various degrees of exaltation concerning the planets happen to be the degrees of longitudes of some one star or the other in each of the three systems. This shows that by "Exaltation" they meant *the first position of the nakshatra in the zodiac* in each Age. They appear to have followed this tradition at least since the year 4000 B. C.

*Note:— For Stage I see Tables III and IV, and for Stage II see Tables V, VI and VII given on pages 91 to 93.*



TABLE III  
The भव्यादि System  
Selection of stars representing planets

Sign	Interval (Sayan Long )	Star with Long	Deity	Planet	Reasons for selection
♈	47° to 77°	Rohini (69°)	प्रजापति	Mars	Red in colour
♉	77 " 107	Inwaka (93 )	सोम	Venus	Bright like Moon
♊	107 " 137	Ashlesha (123 )	सम	Mercury	He is सोम्य ( i e. belonging to सोम or Moon )
♋	137 " 167	Magha (149 )	सिंह	Moon	Belonging to the अधर half.
♌	167 " 197	Uttara & Hasta	भग & सविता	Sun	Being a सोम्य
♍	197 " 227	Swati (203 )	वायु	Mercury	
♎	227 " 257	Anuradha (242 )	मित्र	Venus	
♏	257 " 287	Mool (265 )	शिवयम	Mars	
♐	287 " 317	Shravan (311 )	विष्णु	Jupiter	Sun God
♑	317 " 347	Dhanushtha (317 )	वसु	Saturn	Being रौद्र
♒	347 " 17	Shatataraka (346 )	वरुण	Saturn	
♓	17 " 47	Revati (19 )	पूषा	Jupiter	Being Sun God

TABLE IV. The अश्विनारि System

Sign.	Interval	Star with degree	Deity	Planet	Explanation
♈	360 to 66°	Krittika (37°)	अग्नि	Mars	Fiery (अग्नि)
♉	66 " 96	Inwaka (93)	सोम	Venus	Bright like Moon
♊	96 " 126	Punarvasu ( )	अदिति	Mercury	Being सोम्य
♋	126 " 156	Ashlesha (133)	सिद्धि	Moon	Belonging to अग्र half.
♌	156 " 186	Purva & Uttara (161) (171)	अयंमा भग	Sun	Reason quite clear
♍	186 " 216	Swati (203)	सत्य	Mercury	Being सोम्य
♎	216 " 246	Anuradha (242)	मित्र	Venus	Being a Sun
♏	246 " 276	Jyestha (249)	इंद्र	Mars	Red in colour अश्विनः
♐	276 " 306	U. Ashadha (282)	विश्वदेवाः	Jupiter	Being इन्द्र God
♑	306 " 336	Shravishta (317)	चक्रा	Saturn	
♒	336 " 366	Shatataraka (346)	वरुण	"	
♓	366 " 396	Revati (19)	पूषा	Jupiter	Being the Sun God

TABLE V. ASHVINYADI SYSTEM (Ayanamsha 36°)

Star No	Star	Long	Rashi Position	Deity	Planet in Exaltation
2	भरणी	46 5	10°	यम	Sun
3	बहुल	56	20	अग्नि	Sun
6	रोहिणी	69	3	प्रजापति	Moon
11	पुष्य	128	2	बृहस्पति	Jupiter
17	स्वाती	203	17	वायु	Mercury (सौम्य)
21	विशाखा	236	20	इंद्राग्नि	Saturn
29	अश्लेषा	334	28	मरु	Mars
1	अश्विनी	33	27	अश्विन	Venus

TABLE VI BHARANYADI SYSTEM (Ayanamsha = 49°)

Star No	Star	Long	Rashi Position	Deity	Planet in Exaltation
4	कृत्तिक	59	10	अग्नि	Sun
7	मृग	81 5	3	सोम	Moon
12	अषा	146	7	ब्रह्म	Jupiter
19	निष्ठरा	215	16	वायु	Mercury
23	ज्येष्ठा	249	20	इंद्र	Saturn
31	शततारका	346	27	वरुण	Mars
2	भरणी	46	27	यम	Venus

TABLE VII. KRITTIKADI SYSTEM AYANAMSHA = 59°

Star No	Star	Long	Rashi Position	Deity	Planet in Exaltation
6	रोहिणी	69	10	प्रजापति	Sun
8	इन्धका	93	4	सोम	Moon
14	पूर्वा	161	1	अर्यमा	Jupiter
20	विशाखा	224	17	इंद्राग्नि	Mercury
24	मूल	265	26	निर्ऋति	Saturn
33	पूर्वा भाद्रपदा	358	29	अजएश्वर	Mars
4	बहुला	56	27	अग्नि	Venus

The above tables show that we do get stars which have approximately the same degrees as those mentioned for Planets in Exaltation. It shows that the planets may have been given the lordships of the signs according to the stars which may have some affinity or association with the planets. Even the names of Deities governing the stars may lead us to find out an explanation as to why a particular planet has been allotted the lordship of a particular sign. Eg रौद्र may mean "one having some affinity or association with or 'derivable from' रुद्र", भूमि may mean "one having its origin in the name भूमि or any one of its synonyms like पृथ्वी, भू, बृह, कु etc.," and सौम्य may mean one having some association with सोम or Moon. Similarly, "रौहिण्य" suggests an association with रौहिणी and so on. Since, the Sun and the Moon were the 'two eyes' set to guard the two halves, any nakshatra in the divine half (देवभाग) could be given over to the Sun and any one in the second half (अशुभभाग) which was also called the यम, विदु, निन्दितभाग, could be represented by the Moon. It is our attempt to seek a rational explanation which will be in agreement with the stand taken by us.

In our opinion, the exaltation-degrees were fixed in the भूराब्धि Age and the lordships of signs were fixed in the कथिन्यादि Age. We now proceed to show how most of these allotments are in keeping with the principles enunciated above. We get support from the Amarkosha and other Ancient Hindu works which enumerate list of synonyms.

The following Table VIII gives at a glance, the Rashis naksataras, the controlling planets and probable reasons for their Lordships. —

TABLE VIII  
Showing Rashis, their nakshatras, controlling planets and probable reasons for the selection

No	Sign	symbol	Containing nakshatra quarters	Indicating nakshatra	Deity	Controlling Planet	Probable reasons for the selection of the Planet
1	Aries मेष		अश्लेषा + मृगशीरा + कृत्तिमा 4 4 1	कृत्तिमा	अग्नि	Mars	Because he is "अग्निक" that is "fiery"
2	Taurus वृष		कृत्तिमा + रोहिणी + ध्रुव 3 4 2	कृत्तिमा	अग्नि	Venus	He is the lord of अश्लेष.
3	Gemini मिथुन		मृग + अश्लेषा + पुनर्वसु 2 4 3	मृग	सोम	Mercury	Because he is called a "सोम्य"
4	Cancer कर्क		पुनर्वसु + ज्येष्ठा + अश्लेषा 1 4 4	अश्लेषा	सूर्य	Moon	She is the lord of Cancer which is उदीची (North)
5	Leo सिंह		मृग + पूर्वा + उत्तरा 4 4 1	पूर्वा or उत्तरा	अर्यमा or अग	Sun	He is the lord of these Nakshatras
6	Virgo कन्या		उत्तरा + श्रवणा + चित्रा 3 4 2	चित्रा	ब्रह्मा	Mercury	Because सोम is the 'Maker of world.'
7	Libra तुला		चित्रा + स्वाती + विशाखा 2 4 3	विशाखा	अग्नि	Venus	Lord of अश्लेष
8	Scorpio मृगशिर		विशाखा + अश्लेषा + ज्येष्ठा 1 4 4	विशाखा ज्येष्ठा	अग्नि	Mars	Because he is अग्निक or red in colour श्वेतिका
9	Sagittarius धनु		मूला + पूर्वाषाढा + चित्रा 4 4 1	मूला	विष्णु or यम or रुद्र	Jupiter	He is lord of the ईशान्य who is रुद्र or यम
10	Capricorn मकर		चित्रा + श्रवणा + धनिष्ठा 3 4 2	धनिष्ठा	ब्रह्मा	Saturn	Because Saturn is रुद्र
11	Aquarius कुम्भ		धनिष्ठा + श्रवणा + पू. भाद्र 2 4 3	श्रवणा	ब्रह्मा	Saturn	किमज्ज of West whose Lord is ब्रह्मा
12	Pisces मीन		पू. भाद्रपदा + च. भाद्र + रेवती 1 4 4	च. भाद्रपदा	अश्वि/कुम्भ	Jupiter	Lord of ईशान्य which is the direction of अग्नि कुम्भ

\* See the chart

## THE SUN

Because, in each Age, it was the Sun who started a year when he came to a nakshatra at the Vernal equinox, he used to be given the control of that nakshatra in each Age, this particular star occupying the first (foremost and therefore, the Exalted) position in the zodiac. Since, the Vimshottari Dasha, (directional) system of the Hindus, starts with the direction of the sun who controlled the Kritikas, and since the—सर्वतोमद्वयक (table) also commences from the star Kritikas—(Pleades), it is our view that Astrology may have received a systematic form in the Kritika Age. According to present day belief, the Sun is to be regarded as 'Exalted' at 10° of Mesha (Aries), hence, it is our belief, that, the system took its root when the longitude of Kritikas may have been about 10°, i.e., when the Bharanyadi system may have come into use. The Table No III above shows that our conjecture is correct.

The sign of Leo (सिंह) which consists of the stars पूर्वा, उत्तरा and इस्त, came to be regarded as the Sun's 'Own House' (स्वगृह or स्वराशि), because according to Vedic tradition, all the three stars happen to be controlled by अर्यमा-भग-सविता, all of them being the Sun Gods. This allotment can further be justified when we look to the history of 'change of Sacrificial systems', one change was definitely affected when the उत्तरा and then the पूर्वा became the first stars. The Sun is also the lord of the 'East' which perhaps came to be known as the पूर्वा because of its association with the star पूर्वा फल्गुनी. It will thus be seen that the conditions of "own sign and sign of exaltation" are fully satisfied in the case of the Sun, as the Mesha is regarded as his house of Exaltation and Leo (सिंह) as his own House.

## THE MOON

Moon was called the सोम. He was traditionally regarded as the Lord of the North \* (represented by Cancer) and the Governor (दिवराज) of the N W (वायव्य). These conditions are satisfied in the case of the Moon also, since Cancer is his own house and Taurus, his sign of Exaltation

## MARS

The synonyms <sup>4</sup> of Mars, as given by the Amarkosh, are:— अगारुः ( meaning, the 'fiery'), कुज, भीम & महीसुत, all of them meaning "son of the Earth", "born of Earth" or "derivable from Earth", and रोहितमः meaning, "the red-coloured bodied". He is the lord of the south ( i.e., the sign of Capricorn ) and of the direction belonging to यम ( God of Death ). The equivalent names for यम are—पितृ, धर्मराज and अंतक. He can, therefore, be called the Lord of an अग्नि नक्षत्र also and of the red-coloured stars of रोहिणी and ज्येष्ठ. These conditions are fully satisfied in the case of Mars also.

## MERCURY

His other names<sup>5</sup> are:— रोहिण्येव, सुभ and सौम्य. "Saumya" means relating to, associated with or born of सोम or Moon. Similarly, रोहिण्येव may mean "associated with रोहिणी." He is also the Governor of the north ( सौम्या ) or Cancer, since, रोहिणी and मृगशीर्ष are the stars under the control of the Moon ( सोम ). Mercury could have been given the Lordship of मिथुन (Gemini) on that account, and that of कन्या ( Virgo ) because<sup>6</sup> of मित्रा whose lord is लघ्वा or the Moon.

## JUPITER ( बृहस्पतिः )

Jupiter attained the exalted position at the Eastern rise of the star of पुष्य ( तिष्य ). ( Cf बृहस्पतिः प्रथमं जायमानः तिष्यं नक्षत्रं अभिर्चयन्मूढः ). So the allotment of the sign of Cancer to him as the sign of Exaltation is quite justified. He was also regarded as the Governor ( दिक्पाल ) of the N. E. of which the Deity was ईशान ( इन्द्र etc. ). The उत्तरा भाद्रपदा star was governed by अहिर्बुधिन which is another name of the God Shiva, or Rudra. Similarly, because the star मूलं was under the control of निर्वृति or पितृ both of which are synonyms with यम, इन्द्र and अंतक, Jupiter could have been given the lordship of मूल or of the sign of धनु ( Sagittarius ). All the necessary conditions in the case of Jupiter are thus fulfilled.

76 Amarkosh gives the following couplets —

( 1 ) अगारुः कुजो भीमः रोहितमो महीसुतः ( 2 ) बृहस्पतिः सुभचार्यः . पुष्य ( 3 ) सुभो रोहितमः  
सायं लघ्वाया भार्गवः करिः

77 रोहिण्येवो बृहो सौम्यः

## VENUS

He is the Preceptor of अशुभ (दिव्यगुरु) and also the Governor (दिक्पाल) of the SE which is under the control of अग्नि Star कृत्तिका is under the control of अग्नि and so Venus appears to have been allotted the Lordship of Taurus which includes the nakshatra division of कृत्तिका. Similarly, Venus is said to control the sign of Libra which includes most of the division of विराडा whose lord is again अग्नि. He was also the Sun God, following the 'Sun' i.e., the Sun associated with बहुल, भरणी and रेवती at all the three stages of the Sun's association with वृश्चिक and अश्विनी. Hence Venus appears to have been given the Exaltation in Pisces.

## SATURN

In our opinion, Saturn was regarded as the most influential planet next to the Sun. His influence worked of course in the Asura half just as that of the Sun worked in the Sura half. That is why Saturn appears to have been called "सीरि". It appears that it was because of this main reason that he has been allotted a place exactly opposite to that of the Sun, viz, Libra (कुम्भ) for exaltation and Aquarius for the "Own House". He was to be identified with God Rudra<sup>1</sup>, Yama and Pitru, the manes. He has been correctly assigned the Lordship of "मकर कुम्भ" both of which include the nakshatra division (पक्षिष्वा), which used to be under the control of बहुल. He was also the Lord of the West which used to be under the control of वरुण, the Lord of शततारका which is a part of the sign of कुम्भ (Aquarius).

It is worth while attempting to find out an explanation for the order of Planets and of their periods in the Vimshottari Dasha system, and if we base our stand on the Vedic tradition explained at length in this short essay, it is our firm belief that we will be able to get a rational explanation for the above problem also.

## B THE SARVATOBHADRA CHAKRAM

This Table is widely in use among Indian Astrologers. The author of the work refers to one "Brahmāyama" for the information incorporated by him in the book. According to him, the

१ (१) सोमेन्द्रो दिव्यगुरुः सः ॥ इन्द्रोऽग्निः दिव्यगुरुः विराट्

(२) सोमेन्द्रोऽग्निः सः—मकरकुम्भ



Table appears to have been in use in at least two forms<sup>79</sup> viz. (1) a square form (चन) and (2) a pyramidal form (शंकु). These Tables gave information about (1) names of stars, (2) their symbolic letters, (3) the 12 signs, (4) the tithis and so on.

The author has illustrated a square form<sup>\*</sup> with 81 houses (small squares) as given below. It is not known how the squares with 64 and 144 houses could have been brought in use.

अ	क	रो	मृ	आ	पुन	पु	आ	आ
भ	उ	अ	व	क	ह	द	ऊ	म
अ	ल	ल	इ	नि	के	रु	म	प
रे	व	मे	ओ	मदा	ओ	ति	द	उ
उ.भा	द	मी	रिक्त	पूर्णा	मदा	क	प	ह
पू.मा	स	कुं	:	जया	अं	तु	र	वि
श	ग	ऐ	म	य	वृ	ए	त	स्वा
ध	क	ख	ज	म	य	न	कु	वि
ई	अ	आनि	उ.पा	पू.पा	मू	ज्ये	अ	इ

A study of this Table reveals the following things:—

(1) The number of star names is 28 and not 27.

(2) The letters in the inner square are 20.

(3) The work contains 112 (28 × 4) letters to represent the 112 quarters of the nakshatra divisions: these include 5 forms of 19 letters

(4)<sup>80</sup> The Table commences with Krittikas in the East and seven nakshatras have been allotted each of the four sides of the square.

(5) The third inner square gives the names of 12 signs.

(6) The innermost square mentions 4 names of tithis, the central one being the Poorna.

79 विविध सर्वतोभद्रं तदा तदोभयपार्श्वं

चतुर्ध्वजिषु तर्हं चतुर्हीविमर्शकम् ॥

शंकुर्ध्वजिषु चतुर् तदा तर्होभयपार्श्वम्

तन्मध्ये तर्हश्चतुर् विचारं विमर्शयन् ॥

80 कृत्तिकादिभिर्विभक्तानि पूर्वासादिनिमित्तकम् ॥

उत्तराश्विनदिनादिनिमित्तकम् ॥

\* A square form with 100 houses has also come to our notice.



The very fact that the commencing star was the Krittika and it was to be posted in the East, shows that this aspect of Astrological Knowledge was well known in the age of Shatapatha Brahmana. Any planet in conjunction with any of the 28 asterisms was supposed to exert a force or an influence in five possible directions, popularly known as 'five-arrowed attack' (पञ्चशङ्ख वेध). Such a kind of वेध (attack) can be exhibited only in the pyramidal form, and it is our opinion that the square form was a later modification of the 'Shanku' form.

### C: THE अवकृद्वा CHAKRAM

The name of this Table appears at first sight to have no meaning. But a careful thought has suggested to us a probable meaning. The word 'alphabet' is coined from the first two letters (alpha and beta) of the Greek letters of the alphabet, and hence, it stands for the whole group of letters. The letters अ, क, ख, ग are taught to a boy before the Sanskrit alphabet and have come to mean the 'beginning' of any work taken in hand. Similarly, the word "ओनाम" suggests the same meaning to our mind. The word 'अवकृद्वा' appears to be a corrupt form of अवगड (α, β, γ, δ) the first four letters of the Greek alphabet. A study of the letter symbols used to indicate a particular star lends a support to our assumption that the designers of this Table had based some of their conceptions on the Greek origin of the alphabet.

This Table incorporating information about 27 nakshatras is found in use in a circular form. We have seen a Table about 28 nakshatras giving the same information but in a rectangular form. The letters representing several nakshatras begin with अ, क, ख, ग. This order of letters appears to be rather queer. If, however, the nakshatras are written out in a rectangular form but taking Krittikas as the first star, we get, to our surprise, a systematic symmetrical order of the letters अ, क, ख, ग, इ, etc., each letter being used in its five forms. The Table gives information about नारी, कन, वन, etc. which are the items which will form the subject of further study and have been reserved for a future research work. The Table is given below.

कृत्तिमा आईऊए	रोहिणी ओवावीनू	मृग वेवोमली	आर्द्रा कूपडड	पुनर्वसु केचोदावी	पुष्य हुहेहोडा	आश्लेषा लीहूदेहो
मघा मामीमूये	पूर्वा मोटाटीह	उत्तरा टेटोपनी	दत्ता पूएणड	चित्रा पेपोरायं	स्वती दरेरोता	बिशाखा ततिहोतो
अश्लेषा नानीनूले	ज्येष्ठा नोवावीमू	मूल पेपोमानी	पू. पादा भूपफड	उ. पादा भेमोमजी	अभिजित जुनेमोला	अवघ खोबखेलो
घनिष्ठा मामीमूये	शततारका नोसावीमू	पू. भाद्रपदा सेजेदवी	उ. भाद्रपदा वूजमय	रेवती देदोबाचो	अश्विनी चूचेचोला	भरणी लीहूदेहो

## OBSERVATION

- (i) Looking to the systematic order of the letters आ ई ऊ ए ओ ... ल ख व ड डे, it will be correct to suppose that this table was prepared as an improved form of the सर्वतोभद्रक and prepared for Astrological use by people in the Shatapatha Brahmana Age.
- (ii) The order of letters appears to have been broken exactly in the central column, giving rise to a suspicion, that 3 letters in each central place were interpolated later on, to make up the number 112. These 12 letters are such that the names of persons do not begin from them
- (iii) Comparing the square form of सर्वतोभद्रकम् with the above अवकृद्भद्रकम्, we can easily see that while 96 letters are the same, in both, the first has used 16 vowels in diagonal houses, the latter has selected the above 12 letters.
- (iv) There appears to have been modifications and alterations attempted over the previous, traditional tables, when people accepted one of the three nakshatra systems (21, 27 & 28) and discarded the others.
- (v) The addition of extra letters appears to have been made in the Gemini (मिथुन), Virgo (कन्या), Sagittarius (धनु) and Pisces (मीन) signs, when signs are reckoned from Ashvini as the first nakshatra.
- (vi) The allotment of Nadis (नाडी) to stars appears to have been on the principle followed in naming the week days, the only difference being that, in the first case, the day was regarded as consisting of 24 hours, that in the present case having 60 ghatis.

(iv) The assigning of the three Ganas (गण) to three consecutive stars appears to be a matter of arbitrary arrangement. But the assigning of मनुष्यगण to all the three pairs of पूरा and उत्तरा indicate, that in the beginning there were only 24 stars, the पूर्वाफल्गुनी and उत्तराफल्गुनी being one star named फल्गुनी. These were split up into 2 each when the number of nakshatras grew up to 28 and then to 27.

(viii) The commencing letters अ, इ, क, ह, ड, suggest, that initially the 24 stars were symbolized by 24 letters of the Greek

alphabet. These were 18 consonants and 6 vowels. But later on, when the question of naming the quarters of nakshatras may have come up for consideration, they appear to have devised a new plan of using all the 18 letters in the five forms (a, e, i, o, u,) plus 6 vowels, making the number 96. This principle may have been adopted by later Indian Astrologers, and they evolved the present way of denoting the stars. It must, however, be confessed that we have not been able to find out any rational explanation for the order of the letters म ट प र त, न य भ ज ख, and ग घ ङ च ल. Was it the order of Greek letters of the alphabet in the initial stages?

Both the above tables show germs of Vedic tradition in as much as they followed the कृतिघटि system. The number of years for various Dasha (दश) systems viz, 36, 108, 120, the number of years in planetary periods as also their order, the figures in आयुष्य table etc. are subjects which present a problem to be taken up by future research scholars.

## SECTION IX

### INFLUENCE OF VEDIC CULTURE ON ANCIENT RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

It is now intended to show how traces of Vedic Culture described in detail in the foregoing Sections, are evident in original or in modified form in the Ancient (and even in Modern) religious customs of the world. They are manifest in many ways. Eg., In the adoption of —

- (1) The Eastern rise of the Sun as the starting point of the year,
- (2) The Moon's first appearance after a long dark period as the commencing moment for the Lunar month,
- (3) Original Sanskrit names to the days and months of the year when certain religious ceremonies are performed,
- (4) Some of the Vedic time units,
- (5) The 28 Nakshatra system in place of 27,
- (6) Vedic customs in exactly the same or in modified form.

A thorough search for the origin of all customs in these religions will itself form a "subject of research" For the the present it is desired to limit ourselves in showing how the *Vedic civilization appears to have flourished* before the Egyptian and Babylonian civilizations which are believed to have existed before 5000 B.C. An attempt also will be made to show that these religions appear to have adopted only one out of the following three main Vedic systems —

(1) The Solar system, (2) Lunar system, (3) The 'Fire' system, all requiring the use of Luni Solar system.

#### L THE CHRISTIANITY

(a) The present Gregorian Calendar is the reformed form of the Ancient Roman Calendar which is believed to have a

year consisting of only 10 months, viz. 'March' being the first, meaning marching into the year ( वर्षप्रवेष्ट ) and December being the 10th month. The words Septem, Octo, Novem and Decem are clearly corrupt forms of the Sanskrit words सप्तम्, अष्टम्, नवम् and दशम्. This is reminiscent of the Vedic custom of performing a 7th month, a 9th month and a 10th-month sacrifice ( cf सप्तमा, नवमा, दशमा ). The Romans are said to have introduced an intercalary period of 67 days. This reminds us of the Vedic custom of performing an अतिरात्र ( long night ) sacrifice.

(b) The present day custom of ringing bells in their Churches at midnight on 31st December each year to welcome the advent of the New Year appears to be a similar probable custom amongst Vedic sages of ringing bells to announce the advent of the Divine Samvatsar and the end of Asura's year ( cf आगमार्थे तु देवानां गमनार्थे तु राक्षसां । कुह घण्टारव तत्र देवताइनलक्षणम् ॥ ), on 21st March which was the New Year's March even amongst the Romans.

(c) A careful study of the names of Christian Holidays and their position in the year confirms our belief that the Aryan settlers in the European region may have carried with them the Vedic tradition of counting Sun's rotations in groups of seven, as also the Sun's low, high and central positions \*. All holidays are arranged almost symmetrically with respect to Easter Sunday

Readers will highly appreciate our meaning of the word "EASTER SUNDAY" The dictionary describes the importance of this holiday in the fact that it was dedicated to† 'EOSTRE' ( Goddess of Dawn ) To our mind the word Easter is not the adjective of Sunday It originally may have meant *Eastern Sun's Day*, i e., "the day on which the Sun rose exactly in the East." The day previous to this is termed the *Easter Eve* which again confirms our belief that the period prior to Easter was a night in accordance to Vedic tradition and the next day was the beginning of the Divine Aha (Day)

The names Low, Ascension, Septuagesima, Trinity, etc. of the Sundays definitely can remind one of the low and high

\* Our interpretations of पुरुषसूक्त mantras may be seen again in this reference.

† Can this be the corrupt form of रश्मि स्त्री or some such Sanskrit word ? or of रोषिस् स्त्री ?



positions of the Sun and also his position on the 70th day before the Easter Week.

The WHIT SUNDAY is also known as "PENTECOST" day. Curiously enough this is a corrupt form of पंचशेड, which may have been some religious ceremony to be performed after about 7 weeks. The names Low, Ascension and Easter appear to be the corresponding names of अज्ञातो, उद्गातो and प्राज्ञो. The Easter was to be celebrated on the appearance of the उद्गा or Goddess of Dawn, and this may have been fasting for about a week before 21st March which is the Easter Sun's day. The period between Septuagesima Sunday and Whit Sunday has a length of 147 days which curiously enough coincide with the number of revolutions described by पुरुषसूक्त (cf सप्ताश्वान् पश्यन् त्रिंशत् समिधः )

## II THE MUSLIM RELIGION

That branch of the descendants of Vedic Sages who may have migrated to the sandy deserts of Arabia and Asia Minor appears to have retained only the Lunar system of measuring time. For them, *the moon brought relief and happiness*. The first appearance of the Moon, so far known as चन्द्रमस, continued to be the beginning of the Lunar month, and its festival nature also was retained. The festival is known as ईद the 'ID'. This appears to be the corrupt form of the Sanskrit word "ईद" to worship" (cf अग्निमीडे पुरहितः). The place where the prayers to Moon are offered was naturally called the इदगाह and we have to say that its corrupt form is the well known word ईदगाह. In Vedic Age, the Moon used to make her first appearance after 13 nights, i. e. on the 14th night. The 'fourteenth night moon' was naturally hailed as the happiness-giving God and the present day proverb चन्द्रदवी च चान्द appears to have its origin in the above Vedic phenomenon. The Muslims offer prayers five times a day. This corresponds to our Vedic commands of performing five kinds of स्वन in the five parts of the Divine Aha (cf प्रत स्वन मास्यहस्वन etc.). The Muslim system of holding a noon-day prayer is reminiscent of the Vedic custom of holding a मास्यदिनस्वन.

The names of Muslim festivals are either Arabic or Persian. Curiously enough some of them sound as corrupt forms of Sanskrit words. E.g. the original name of बारह बफात (BARAH WAFAT) viz DIWARDAHAM appears to have been derived

from द्वादशाहम्. The word **BARAT** may have been (वत). The name **Shabibarat** may have been शिवव्रत or शिवरात्र. The word **FITRE** appears to be फितुर. The word **Rabi** in रविबलभवत् can be the first (भवत्) **Ravi**. The Arabic Calendar gives a list of 28 stars, calling them as मन्दीर (Mansions). This is exactly the Vedic conception of "देवगृहा वै नक्षत्राणि".

### III. THE PARSI RELIGION

The Parsis are Fire-worshippers and appear to have inherited the customs of earlier Vedic Sages who used to worship fire (अग्नि) which was the primary deity. (cf. अग्निर्वै देवानां मुखं, or अग्निमीडे पुरोहितं). Their main festival is 'Navaroz' which literally means the New (Year's) day. Curiously enough the Navaroz falls on 21st March, the Vedic New Year's Day. The word itself suggests that the Early Parsee Sages must have continued the system of starting their year on or about 21st March each year.

#### NAMES OF DAYS AND OF MONTHS

<b>AHUR MAZD</b> अहुर मर्द् *	<b>ATREYADIJA</b> आत्रेयादिज
<b>VAHAR</b> वाहार	<b>ANAMAK</b> अनामक
<b>GARMA PAD</b> गर्मपद	<b>VERETHRAGHNAHE</b> वृत्रजः
<b>VANHEUS</b> वन्दीवस	<b>MITRAHE</b> मित्र
<b>KSHATRAVAIJEHE</b> क्षत्रवीर्य	<b>AMERETATO</b> अमृतत्व
	<b>VATAHE</b> वातः
	<b>PAVANAMITRO</b> पवनमित्र
	<b>VAHUMAN</b> वहुमान
	<b>FARVARDINMAH</b> प्रवर्धित मास
	<b>ARDIBAHISTHA</b> अर्धवसिष्ठ
	<b>MORDANMAH</b> मर्दन मास
	<b>ABAN MAH</b> अबन मास

### IV. THE EGYPTIAN CALENDAR

The Egyptians used to celebrate the day with great rejoicings when the Eastern Sun rose along with the star Sirius. Their year commenced from this day and used to consist of 12 months

\* Note.—The word मर्द् appears to have some association with the killing of वृत्रासुर by Indra. वृत्र was called मर्दि or अमृद.

of 30 days each like the Vedic system (द्वादशमासा सवत्सर अद्धानि). But curiously enough instead of making an adjustment of 21 days at the 4th (Leap) year, they used to add 5 days at the end, calling them "The five sons of God Sun". They were called the "EPAGOMENAI" which again is a clear corrupt form of the Sanskrit word "अपगमिन" meaning "going down". The names SEB, NUT, SOTIHS may prove to be corrupt forms of शिव, नद, स्वाति and so on.

## V. THE CHINESE SYSTEM

The Chinese appear to have followed the 60-year cycle system for about 2000 years before Christ. They have got a system of 28 lunar mansions. One of the lists of stars commences from चित्र which again points to some very ancient Age. The other list commences with कृत्ति. These things definitely point to the influence of Vedic culture over Chinese civilization. Their history of time units shows that before the year 1100 B. C. they had only 24 stars—a thing suggested by us in the Section on Astrological subjects. (See pages 84 to 98.)

The above discussion definitely supports our stand that the Vedic Sages lived thousands of years before any other known Ancient Civilizations.

## CONCLUSION

We briefly enumerate the Results of our research as below —

- I (a) The Vedic Sages lived in the North Polar region for about a period of 10 000 years (from 14000 B. C. to 3000 B. C.)
- (b) During this period they appear to have followed four systems of time units, all determined by Astronomical phenomena, viz (i) The Brahma system, (ii) The Darvi system, (iii) The Prajapati's system, (iv) The Manushi (human) system.
- (c) The longest conceivable period of time was that of 1000 years which they used to measure by performing '1000-year-sacrifices' to be started with a star rising in the East, and at the commencement of each such period they elected a new Governor (Manu).

- (d) The Divine Aha or Samvatsara of 180 days and the Ratrih (or Prajapati's Samvatsara) also consisted of 180 days. As the Sages left their Polar abode and came down to lower latitudes, the lengths of these periods began to vary, thus necessitating the creation of sacrifices of different magnitudes. E. g., in the Age of बृहदारण्यक, the Divine Samvatsara appears to have consisted of only 168 days and that of Prajapati, of 192 days or 16 Kalas.
- (e) The human year consisted of (1) either three Sacrificial years of 360 common days each to be followed by a leap year of 381 days, or (2) of a civil year of 13 lunar months, each lunar month consisting of a शुक्लपक्ष (i. e. a continuously lighted period) of about 15 days and a कृष्णपक्ष (or a continuously dark period) of about 13 days.
- II Sanskrit words like Aha, Samvatsara, Manu, Kalpa, Mukham, Ritu, etc. lost their original Vedic meaning during the Smṛiti Age.
- III Vedic Deities were few in number. Their position used to be located by clusters of stars resembling shapes of birds and beasts. शुक्र and बृहस्पति were the names of God Sun\* whose original name was सविता, and those of the Moon were सोम and मयिन्.
- IV The origin of many of the Christian, Mohammedan and Parsi customs can be traced to the Vedic period. E. g., The ringing of bells on the day of commencement of the New Year, the offering of prayers to New Moon, the holding of Noon prayers at 1.30 P. M., the reckoning of a year as equivalent to 10 months are some of the examples.\*
- V The Ganapati and Mahadeo were the only two Vedic Deities who were equally respected by Suras and Asuras. The Mahadeo or the Great God was conceived as the Deity represented by scores of constellations of stars simultaneously visible in the

\* See The Note on other Ancient Civilizations.

hemispherical dome which used to be seen revolving continuously.

- VI The Vedic Sages evolved all their sacrificial systems, so as to measure time units needed by them. These were not the outcome of a fancy of imagination, but a systematic attempt of adjusting the age-old principles to new environments which the sages were required to face, as they moved down from their North Polar abode to Southern latitudes.
- VII The well-known fourteen jewels were none other than the bright stars or constellations of stars which rose in the East (apparently from beneath the sea. cf. *सगरुहस्य*) each one after a period of about 1000 years.
- VIII. Most of the Vedic Mantras invariably point to one or the other of the astronomical conditions actually observed by Sages living in different latitudes during different Ages.
- IX. Attempt has been made to seek a rational explanation for the names of stars like *विशाखा*, *भद्रपदा*, *ज्येष्ठा*, *मूला* and so on.
- X. For the first time it has been brought to light that the names of stars published by the Western countries are most of them the corrupt forms of their Vedic Sanskrit names or of their meanings given by the Star Atlas. The "ORION" is not the *मृगशीर्ष* but the *वृश्च*, the SIRIUS is not a hunter but the Sanskrit name of *श्वि*, the ERIDANUS is *हरिश्चतु*, the CASSEOPEA is *कश्यपस्य*, the COMA is *रोम* the CORONA is *शोभा* or *कण* and so on.
- XI Attempt has also been made to find out a rational explanation for some astrological subjects which point to their origin in the Shatapatha Brahmana Age.

If, therefore, our efforts to search out a "hitherto unknown" side of Vedic Tradition be appreciated by readers, we would be encouraged to analyse and rearrange in chronological order the Vedic Works and their passages at least up to the Age of Shatapatha Brahmana—a work which would immediately help research scholars in their work. It is the sacred duty of every

Indian Scholar of Vedic culture to place before the world the correct interpretations of Vedic passages which, to our horror, appear to have been made by Westerners in a grossly mistaken way

## ANCIENT VEDIC TERMINOLOGY

[Following is a list of few Sanskrit words, given as an illustration, to show how they admit of meanings very different from the popular ones. If these are not accepted, the Sanskrit passages in which they occur, appear to lose their correct sense.]

1 अह (Aha) It was a general time unit, denoting a period of time between the appearance (rise) and disappearance (set) of any luminary about the horizon of the North Polar region which was the abode of Vedic Sages. Thus, Brahma's Aha was equivalent to 14,000 years. Divine Aha = 180 days. Prajapati's Aha = 15 days (A human Aha was equivalent to a period of 24 hours taken by the Sun to make a complete encircling movement around the horizon. A human Ratri was an equal period determined by the encircling of any star)

2 असुर (Asura) It did not necessarily mean a demon. It simply denoted the counterpart of the human race known as the *सुर*. He was also known as पूर्वदेव

3 अमावस्या (Amavasya) It was a period of time during which the Sun and the Moon were both visible and hence 'together'. It could be even a period of about 13 days

4 अघ्न (Aghni) It meant the 'sacrifice' and also 'the road'

4 (A) अयन = movement as in उत्तरायण, शरद also knowledge, as in समायन, ज्योतिषायन, etc.

5 अनिरुद्र It was the term applied to that sacrifice which used to be performed at the end of each long period of continuous nights which varied with latitudes of places on the Earth

6 ऋतु It was not a 'season' but a time unit. It stood for each and every portion in which a Samvatsar used to be divided. There used to be 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 ऋतु in a Samvatsar

7 ऋत It did not mean an angle of 160th degree, but denoted a time unit of 12 days

8 कल्प It was a time unit denoting a period of 900 to 1000 years.

- 9 ग्रह It was a time unit denoting a period of time between the consecutive rises of any planet.
- 10 चारमास A period of 15+13 or 28 days The first period consisted of 15 continuous lighted nights called the शुक्लपक्ष and the second, that of 13 continuous dark nights called कृष्णपक्ष
- 11 त्रिमुपनि It was a group of mantras composed in honour of God Vishnu (मुपनि) and meant to be chanted on the occasion of each of the three four-monthly sacrifices (चारमास्ययज्ञ) during the year which was called महात्रिमुपनि
- 12 नक्षत्र was a time unit denoting a period of time between the exactly Easterly rises of two consecutive stars.
- 13 निमिष was the smallest of time units meaning "a twinkling of the eye." The Brahmi Nimisha was equivalent to a human day of 24 hours.
- 14 पक्ष meant a side of each of the Ahoratra described by the Sun and the Moon both
- 15 पंचदशी meant the 15th night. This term was applied to Purnima and Amavasya both
- 16 पुर or पूर्व meant 'in front of' or "to the East" as in पूर्वोपरि or पुरोदित meaning 'placed in the East'
- 17 प्रजापति was the title of the Religious Head of the Society
- 18 भाग did not mean 'a share' but the celestial half belonging to Suras and Asuras
- 19 मनु was not a time unit but the title of the Social Head of the society. He was elected at the beginning of each Yuga or Kalpa
- 20 मधु did not mean "honey" but the spring season'
- 21 मुख did not mean a 'month' but 'the first in a series'
- 22 यज्ञ A sacrifice. There used to be periodic sacrifices at the end of which used to be performed a special sacrifice known after the period. E g (1) the षोडशी, (2) the नवरात्रि or दशरानिक, (3) एवमिन्द्र, (4) अतिरात्रम्
- 23 युग It was not a period of millions of years as is

\* Time used to be measured in cycles of 4 Yugas (चर्यामनि) The first one of 12 years was termed the Kali the second one the Dwapara the third one, the Treta and fourth one the Krta. The order of these Yugas was Kali to Krta

believed by us today, but a period of 3, 4, 5 or 12 years in the case of Human Yugas and of 1000 years in the case of Divine Yugas.

24. एद्धिः is the counterpart of Aha.
25. रिचः (as in रिचियानः) means "get exhausted or spent up."
26. सन्धं meant "clock-wise."
27. वामं meant 'in a counter-clockwise direction'.
28. संवत्सरः A synonym of Aha. Later on, it denoted 'a year.'
29. समता means a symmetry with respect to equinox.
30. सोमं प्राप्नुवंति : Obtain a correct measure for the "Lunar time"





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